

MANSON

THE SHOCKING CRIMES OF HISTORY'S MOST INFAMOUS CULT

MURDERS

MAKING OF A MONSTER

HOW CHARLES MANSON'S
EARLY YEARS HELPED
CREATE THE EVIL
CULT KILLER

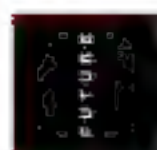


MEET THE FAMILY
FROM HELL



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
GOOD GIRLS GO BAD?

Digital
Edition



FIRST
EDITION



AS IT HAPPENED: THE EVENTS OF AUGUST 1969



TWO NIGHTS
OF TERROR

DISCOVER THE SHOCKING TRUTH BEHIND
THE BRUTAL KILLING OF SHARON TATE

MANSON

THE SHOCKING CRIMES OF HISTORY'S MOST INFAMOUS CULT

MURDERS

On 19 November 2017, Charles Manson died in prison at the age of 83. The world's most notorious cult leader was gone, leaving behind him a legacy of death and destruction. Under his command his 'Family' had brutally murdered at least nine people, including Hollywood actress Sharon Tate, who was eight months pregnant at the time of her death. Fifty years on from Tate's cold-blooded killing, we relive the shocking events of those two nights of terror in August 1969, the Family's first forays into violence and the dramatic trials that followed. But who was this 'Family' from hell and why did they follow the twisted instructions of a madman? Did Charlie's early years play a part in the shocking crimes of the 1960s? Why were young women drawn to Manson and his sadistic cult? And what was life really like inside the Manson Family? Discover the answers to these questions and more in our fascinating features and in-depth articles.



MARSHALL

THE SHOCKING CRIMES OF HISTORY'S MOST INFAMOUS CULT

MURDERS

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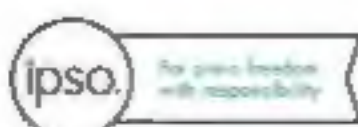
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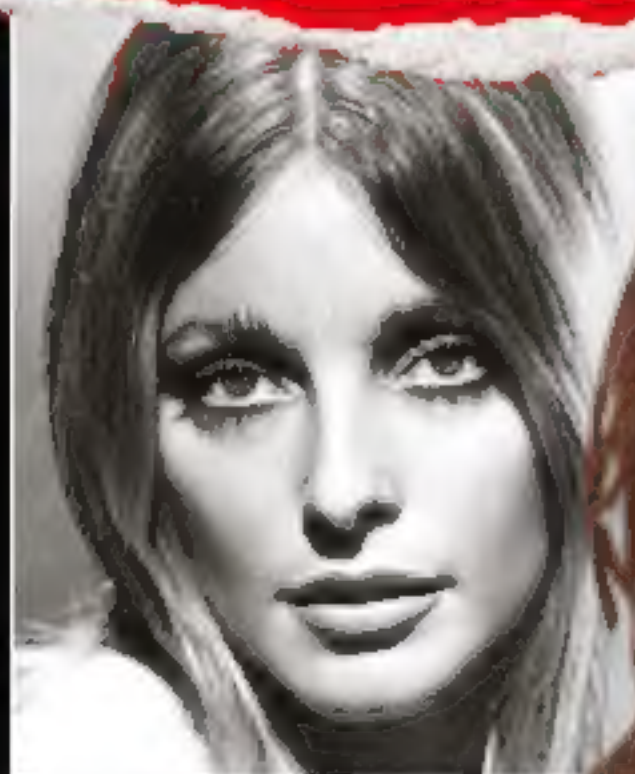
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CHARLIE SAYS: "HA, HA,
HA NOW WHAT?"



MURDER, MADNESS MANSON

HOW CHARLES MANSON'S PSYCHEDELIC COCKTAIL OF DRUGS, MANIPULATION AND DOOMSDAY
PROPHECIES TRANSFORMED A BAND OF BEATNIKS INTO THE KILLER CULT

WRITTEN BY K CHARLIE DUGHTON



It was a hot night in the California desert: a series of shapes wove and wavered around the fire while the small light on the end of a suspicious-looking cigarette winked its way from hand to hand inside the stoned circle. Noise was a low, hot babble of chilled secrets and groovy gossip, the twitching fire (with periodic sparks of laughter) and the occasional rattle of someone who had had a few too many smokes and needed a good-natured thwack on the back from a nearby bro. At the far end was a figure leaning into a group conversation, but angled slightly away from them so as to be able to see anyone approaching. In the slow glow of the light, "his face was like a sun, shining in its strength." His name, as has been written, is Manson, and he is a prodigy, a child of our time. Others knew him simply as Charlie, the leader of the Family around the flame, "the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude." Charlie, as described by former Family member Catherine 'Gypsy' Share, spoke to that multitude. She said he "became whatever you needed him to be."

He would "be very caring, would work on your inadequacies, your needs, help you take away your fears," she said. "Charlie talked to whoever he was talking to in a way that they would believe him. If he was talking to hippies he'd talk one way, if he was talking to motorcycle guys, he'd talk another way. He could just reflect whatever he draws out... whatever he knows they agree with."

"All we are saying... is give peace a chance!" John Lennon and Yoko Ono, *Give Peace A Chance*

CHARLIE GAYL: "EVERYTHING IS LOVE EVEN THE CONFUSION IS LOVE IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER"

BELOW

Barker Ranch, one of the isolated hideaways of the Manson Family

THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

The 1960s were the start of The Age of Aquarius, a decade of change led by Catherine Share and this new generation. People tried to put them down through a succession of wars, such as Vietnam, whose repercussions reverberated across the USA, but she and others like her had decided to "give peace a chance" and headed to the epicentre of the hippy subculture. It was the era of the Summer of Love and times they were a-changin'. Dr Martin Luther King Jr's dreams had spoken to the multitude and behold! The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 gave a people a place at the table regardless of colour, creed, sex or origin.

Many had begun to find way to resolve their issues by taking that seat at the table of Man, talking through their problems and swearing to ban the bomb. Woman, man, son and daughter were changing. Rather than following the footsteps of their fathers, people discovered the power to change the universe. Loose fitting, music festival-blessed robes conferred the bliss of Flower Power on the wearer and imbued adults with the idealism of children, ably assisted by a recently popularised pill and legislation that gave women power over their fertility. What was more, the Space Race had gathered pace and everyone knew that before long, Man would soon claim the Moon itself for his own. The focus of this movement was none other than Haight, California. For years later the sun god would offer to shine its light on those seeking actualisation, be it in the film industry or of the equal-rights movement, and none wanted it more than a group of college-age kids in search of adventure.

Charlie's friends were a cross-section of the USA. A number of them came from stable, even religious backgrounds, while others experienced early forays into petty crime. Indeed, even a number of those who had come from law-abiding homes had seen their lives disrupted by family breakups ranging from their parents'

divorces through to fleeing political persecution, as in the case of Catherine Share. Together, their backgrounds didn't matter and they could be taken for who they were, including All-American sports star Charles 'Tex' Watson, erotic dancer Susan Atkins, young divorcee Linda Kasabian, insurance agency worker Patricia Krenwinkel, homecoming queen Leslie Van Houten, and actor Robert Beausoleil.

Their previous lives and problem parents had been passed away and it was there for all to see: they were family. The rest is a mixture of fact and conjecture as the brothers and sisters have different accounts of what happened during those drug-addled days with their brethren.

Leslie Van Houten was one such sister. Stating in an interview that she was "a very creative girl", she had wanted to be a school teacher and left her middle-class home to find someone "to love and hold on to and call [her] own." Charlie, in the era of free love, was willing to share himself with her. Between them and the rest of the Family, they made magic together. They became nomads, travelling from place to place, having sex (when Charlie told them to), making friends and taking copious amounts of LSD. They were told "the whole idea was to let time disappear. There was no time - we were all living now." Even looking back, Leslie's language suggests Manson convinced them that if they just "let" themselves, they could access a power that could control the universe and they could choose to manipulate time itself while the rest of the world was subject to the march of reality and its wife, worldly problems.

Leslie said that the whole idea of their so-called "magical mystery tour" was that "every day we would get more out of ourselves. Every day was Halloween." Bit by bit, by having a positive outlook (Charlie had been trained in positive thinking... someplace) and by allowing themselves to see things from other perspectives, they could be different. By daring to play the different parts that





ABOVE
Tate's body is removed from the house by homicide detectives. Even the seasoned investigators said it was the most gruesome crime scene that they had ever come across.

ABOVE RIGHT
The deep stain of blood in front of the couch indicates where Tate's body lay bleeding from the 16 stab wounds inflicted by Susan Atkins and Charles 'Tex' Watson. Tate was only 26 years old.

OPPOSITE PAGE
The Los Angeles County Coroner Thomas Noguchi takes notes as his assistants lift the sheet covering one of the victims. Noguchi quickly realised that this wasn't a drug-related assassination, as some had suspected.

Charlie gave them in fun little drama workshops, they would get "out" of their old, humdrum lives and "get more out" of their new ones. They could be gypsies, pirates, whatever they wanted. It seemed like heaven.

Charlie's teachings began to change. Having encouraged them to let go of their personal hang-ups, He began to preach. He had them re-enact the crucifixion of Jesus Christ while tripping. He spoke about an impending race war and told them they had to 'die' to be reborn and rule the world.

"Realms of bliss, realms of light, some are born to sweet delight" **The Doors, A Ship Of Fools**

SEX, DRUGS AND ROCK 'N' ROLL

United by the fire of Manson's fervent teaching, the Family took on the world. Manson had, after all, had a taste of the celestial reality of stardom. He was an old-style wanderer and had penned the rhythm and the words of many a parable and, after his girls had a chance encounter with the singer, Charlie had good vibrations (though no release, record or otherwise) with The Beach Boys' Dennis Wilson. Charlie was just waiting for the right time when he would know

CHARLIE SAYS: "THE REAL STRONG HAVE NO NEED TO PROVE IT TO THE PHONES"

that the world was ready for him, though he was getting more than a little irritated by the wait.

The sign came to Charlie through culture itself: The Beatles' album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The Beatles were shapeshifters and had transformed themselves from clean-cut kids into psychedelic superstars, and they wore their magic on their sleeve. It included Aleister Crowley, immortalised as 'The Wickedest Man in the World'. Cambridge-educated Crowley was a ceremonial magician, an occultist. He established his own religion, Thelema, based on furthering the will through feasting, dramatic ritual, thought and sex.

His education made it hard to dismiss him as a crank and his ideas fitted with the cultural re-evaluation of the self. He was pictured on the album cover with psychoanalyst Carl Jung and Albert Einstein himself - a world-changer famous in part for a photograph in which he stuck out his tongue. The message to Manson was clear: you could use sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll to become one of the

culturally anointed 'chosen' and could be remembered. While it was the case that Crowley intended his followers to follow their own desires, the idea of offering friendship and fun in exchange for loyalty seemed to appeal to Manson.

CHARLIE'S BEATLES BREAKTHROUGH

Manson felt he finally got his breakthrough from The Beatles themselves. They released 'The White Album', containing the track *Helter Skelter*. Manson apparently perceived the hit as a hidden code being revealed to him as an opportunity to right the wrongs he felt had been committed by society, by removing the perpetrators.

In particular, he connected the album and the band in general to a part of the Bible, for he had attended church in his youth. The specific sections were verses 1-4 of chapter 9 in The Book of Revelations, believed by some to foretell the second coming of the son of God. Charlie quite agreed. Locusts were to come on to the land as a "star" fell to earth and an abyss offering a safe haven

CHARLIE GAYL: 'I DON'T LIE'

MURDER, MADNESS, MANSON



for the faithful would open. Thinking somewhat literally, Charlie interpreted the culture-changing Beatles as the locusts and assumed that the abyss would be at one of the nomadic Family's bolt holes. Uniting by inciting a race war, he would

"Tried to run, tried to hide, break on through to the other side" The Doors, *Break On Through To The Other Side*

show them the way to Armageddon. They would make way for a new earth after "the first had passed away"; would be swallowed beneath the depths and then return victorious.

According to Pat, Charlie instructed her, Linda and Susan to go with Tex to the house of film director Roman Polanski and his pregnant partner Sharon Tate and "do everything that Tex" said. They climbed the windows and bore down on their prey, butchering them with shots, bludgeon and stab wounds numbering 102, some of which were inflicted after the victims were dead. The next night, with Leslie along for the ride, they followed their leader through to the home of the LaBiancas and killed the elderly couple with lighting cords and skewered them with dinner equipment, leaving 67 stab wounds in their wake.

They would report this back to Charlie, who had actually excused himself from the proceedings. Finally, they scrawled

the sloppy, symbolic messages "death to pigs", "rise" and of course "helter skelter" on the walls and on a fridge, so as to kickstart the end of the world.

In the chaotic recollections of Pat Krenwinkel, "We... we just, we were so locked and like, it's just like... okay, okay, this must be, this, I mean, you just become more and... and more like... a robot, that somehow... this must... bring it!"

But it didn't. Nothing happened other than LA going into lockdown. Celebrities skipped town terrified, acted the hero by standing guard on the streets or flushed their dope down the sewers over rumours that the killings were drug related. The Manson Family carried on as they were, stealing cars and the like until Susan was caught... and blabbed.

Charlie and the others were charged with the murders in 1969. Manson himself had to be brought in using circumstantial evidence and conspiracy laws since he had made himself scarce for the dirty work. Indeed, he'd even choreographed the trial. He told his Family to be sure to make a spectacle that would disrupt the court proceedings.

Pat recalled: "[Charlie said] I want you each to stand up and hold

ACID BATCH MURDERERS

HOW LSD AND MIND GAMES MOULDED MANSON'S FOLLOWERS

A fixture of US military experiments in the 1950s,

psychotropic drugs can – over time – break down inhibitions. This can be useful if you want to manipulate someone as Charlie did his followers, limning away their old lives and building up their new ones with himself at the centre.

As Dr Linda Dubrow-Marshall has stated, "Charles Manson was a particularly effective cult leader in that he was able to manipulate people's behaviour without even having to be present during the heinous acts that he ordered."

Through prolonged use of hallucinogenic drugs and by creating an 'us' (the Family) versus 'them' (the 'beautiful' Hollywood people) mentality, he created a sense of superiority and purpose in the group and diminished ability for followers to make independent and rational decisions.

Secretal rules became irrelevant... which allowed them to express rage towards the identified, dehumanised 'enemies' and suppress fears about the possible end of the world, which had been preached to them. Manson chose selected people to carry out this mission, which probably made them feel special and closer to the messianic figure.

Elaine Edwards, former Consultant Psychiatrist, explains how the Family may have experienced their shared trip.

1. DEEP CONNECTION

A feeling of connectedness and being part of a whole, both with each other and the environment.

2. COLOUR AND LIGHT

Visual effects including enhanced colour and light. Images can appear to sparkle.

3. ETHEREAL NOISE

Sound effects may include enhanced echoes, bird song or any other sound in the environment.

4. TIME STOPS

A sense of transcending time. Time may appear to stop or be infinite.

5. SAFE AND SOUND

There may have been a sense of being together in the world, given the features of the spaces the Family occupied.

CHARLIE GAYL:

"EVERYTHING IS LOVE
EVEN THE CONFUSION
IS LOVE IN SOME FORM
OR ANOTHER"

CHARLIE SAID: 'WHATEVER I GOT TO DO TO SURVIVE, THAT'S WHAT I DO'

your hands up in some stupid symbols. You're gonna stand up and scream. You know, each day was scripted... With Manson, he believed everything we did was creating some picture that would go out in the universe and somehow change it toward... he'd bend it towards his will."

They did as they were told. They sang, chatted and flirted with reporters. The girls also under suspicion followed Charlie in carving Swastikas into their foreheads as symbols of their rejection of society. Even the defence attorney (no doubt unintentionally) mimicked Manson's preachy, bombastic style of speech, stating that Manson had hoped that white men would "turn against the black man if they thought that the black man had committed these seven murders." The attorney's singular use of 'black man' providing the link. So strong was Manson's influence that even when sister Pat smelled a rat

"You really got me, you really got me, you really got me"
The Kinks, *You Really Got Me*

(rather than a locust), she knew that she could not go back.

She recalled: "And all of a sudden [Charlie] was asking every one of us to lie on a daily basis about something. 'Oh, say this, say that'... but I didn't... do that. It was like, you lie? A god lies?"

They were nevertheless so besotted with their Charlie Christ that they complied. When Charlie was sentenced to death for his crimes, the Family, including the girls who had been handed the exact same fate, all shaved their heads anyway, in mourning for him.

Manson's trial prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi recalls the moment the verdicts were handed down: "I looked over at Manson and his Family were trembling. Here's someone who always spoke about the beauty of death. He was always telling everyone that death was a beautiful thing and when we kill these people we'll be doing them a favour and they won't realise it, but... he fought very hard for his own life, so that was just pure hypocrisy on his part."

THE TRUE CHARLIE

Manson was not the messiah, but he had been a very sad boy. At the trial, the details of his life became public. Charlie had been able to talk to counsellor and convict alike because by the time he established his Family, he had spent half of his life

in prisons and detention centres. This charismatic leader had been born to a 16-year-old armed robber called Kathleen who had "sold" him as a child for the price of a pitcher of beer before dumping him with sometimes vague acquaintances throughout his childhood.

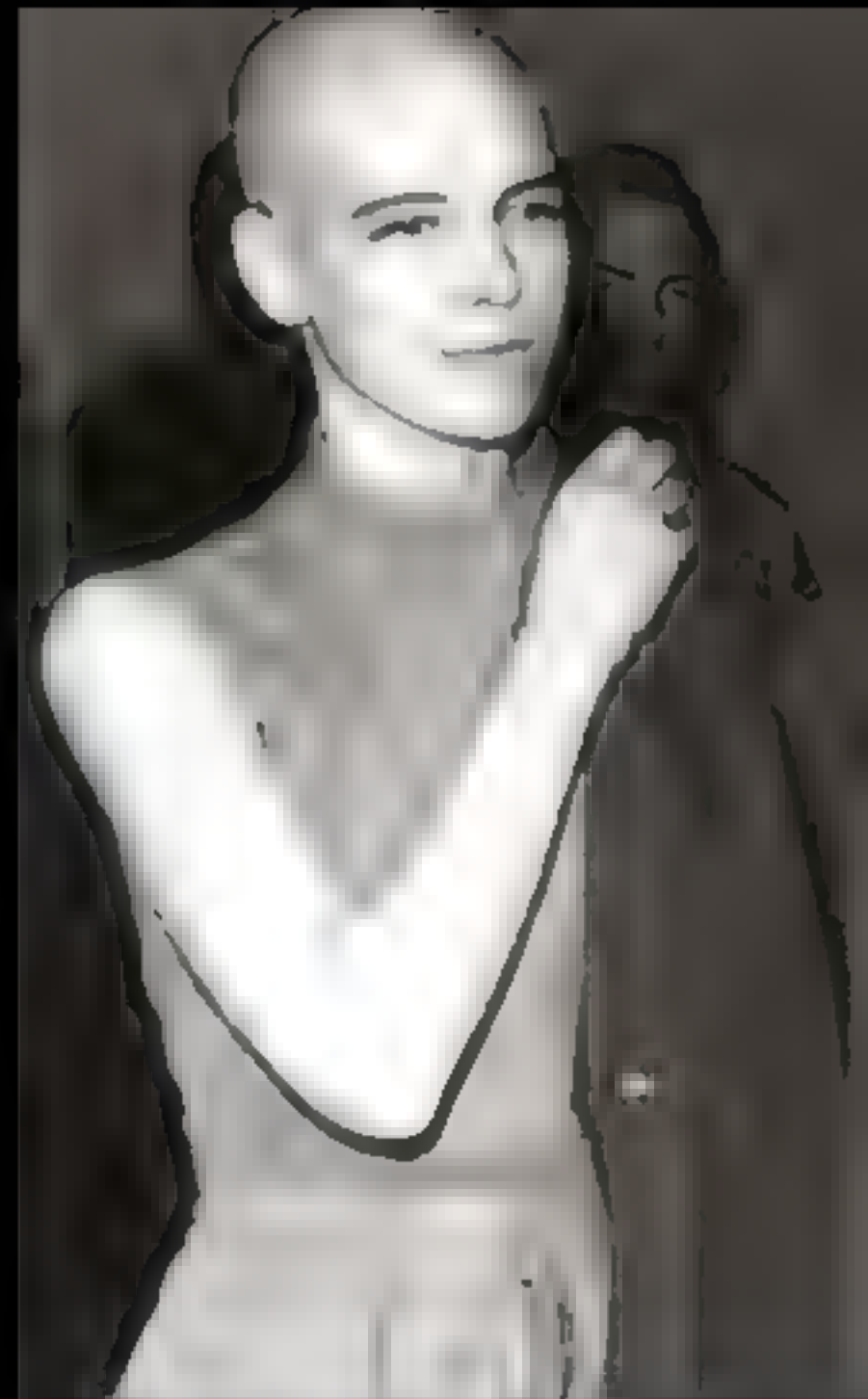
Teenage Charlie was a petty criminal before prison, though the latter was an atmosphere he loved, not because of its brutality, but the institution. The structure forced on him gave him a security that made him feel controlled, safe. Prison provided the surrogate parent the now-adult Charlie had never had. Indeed, when time came for his release, he is said to have pleaded with the purse-string holders to be allowed to cower within their walls, the little boy who never really grew up. He wanted to hide from the world, but if he could not, he resolved to rain hell on it by constructing the Family he'd never had. In that sense, it's natural that they were less than perfect.

MANSON'S MEDIA CAREER

In 1972, the Supreme Court overturned the death penalty. Since that time, some of the Family have been released from prison, some simply left, one (Lynette Fromme) went on to attempt to assassinate a president, two (Susan Atkins and Manson himself) have died and the rest remain incarcerated. There have been numerous films made about them ranging

Their heads shaved in protest, Leslie Van Houten, Patricia Krenwinkel and Susan Atkins arrive for sentencing

Director Roman Polanski sitting on the bloodied porch outside his home after the murder of his wife Sharon Tate and friends by the Manson Family. 'FIS' is scrawled on door



from biopics to documentaries, as well as interviews with Charlie in which he either raged at supposedly inappropriate questions or attempted to charm with his peculiar brand of homespun wit. He remained a contradiction in terms. He was vaunted as a mass murderer who never actually killed anyone, an international celebrity who couldn't give interviews (but, like Jeffrey Dahmer, was interviewed by the best) and was a critic of the system while begging to remain in its



A black and white portrait of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark, patterned top. The image is framed by a thick black border.



BIRTH OF EVIL

- 16-21. Making of a monster
- 22-25. Darker shades of Haight
- 26-33. The Family from Hell
- 34-37. Home on the range
- 38-45. 20 hours inside Manson's mind

MAKING OF A MONSTER

MOST MONSTERS THAT WALK OUR STREETS
ARE NOT BORN THAT WAY. INSTEAD, THEY
ARE SHAPED BY THE SOCIETY THEY
ULTIMATELY TERRORISE

WORDS JOANNA ELPHICK

Girl meets boy. Boy tells her he loves her and promises to be true. Girl gives in to boy. Girl finds herself pregnant and boy skips town. The story isn't exactly original but this particular version has a dramatic plot twist since the pathetic, unwanted baby grows into the most infamous murderer of all time. Of course, the real story is not just the details of his crimes, but more importantly, how a skinny runt became the Antichrist messiah and a pop-culture reference for pure evil.

In 1970, Charles Manson claimed, "I am only what you made me. I am only a reflection of you. I have ate out of your garbage cans to stay out of jail. I have wore your second-hand clothes. So, who are we to blame for the creation of Manson? His mother gave birth to the baby, but did she play a role in the making of a cult leader?"

Nancy and Charles Maddox ran a tight ship, particularly the God-fearing Nancy who brought up her three children with religious zeal. Alene and Luther mostly kept in line but Kathleen, the youngest of the family, marched to a different beat, rebelling against her devout Christian upbringing at every opportunity. Sex was an obvious weapon against her mother's religious fervour and it wasn't long before the young girl started getting an unsavoury reputation.

At the age of 15, Kathleen fell pregnant causing deep embarrassment to her

LEFT
A smiling Charles Manson in suit and tie three days before he ran away from Boys Town.

BELOW
His aunt and uncle's home in McMechen where wayward Charles Manson would be given a second chance.

family who promptly kicked her out. Later newspaper reporters would claim that baby Charles's mother was a lowlife prostitute and that he, in turn, was nothing more than the outcome of such an encounter. However, it was far more likely that she had simply been caught out by her on-off boyfriend, Colonel Scott, who disappeared on hearing the less-than-joyous news.

On 12 November 1934, the first cries of little Charles could be heard reverberating down the corridors of Cincinnati's Pike Street Hospital. Nancy decided to forgive her daughter, welcoming her back into their home along with the latest addition to the family. Respectability was returned when Kathleen married her new boyfriend and No-Name Maddox was finally dubbed Charles Manson. Life was tumultuous from the very start and when Kathleen's husband walked out, little Charlie found himself being pushed from pillar to post.

Manson later claimed he had truly adored his mother and she him, but her love of drink and good times proved to be too great. Young Charlie was often dropped off with others in favour of some more adult fun for his mother. What was promised to be an hour or two at a neighbour's often turned into weeks where auntie or grandmother would eventually find the child and take him back home. In this way, bouncing between various

“IN 1970, CHARLES MANSON CLAIMED, 'I AM ONLY WHAT YOU MADE ME. I AM ONLY A REFLECTION OF YOU'”



© All images across spread are gifts of the state of Ohio.

random friends and family, Charles spent his formative years

However in 1939 things took a turn for the worse for the five-year-old when Kathleen and her brother Luther decided to rob a service station in West Virginia. Having viciously attacked the attendant the pair were caught and sentenced to five years in the state penitentiary for armed robbery. Charles was packed off to live with his overly strict aunt, the antithesis of his promiscuous, free-spirited mother, introducing him to yet another extreme lifestyle. Meanwhile, his vehemently devout grandmother exposed the impressionable boy to her religious mania.

Life was undeniably harsh for young Charles. He missed his mother dreadfully, often weeping for her at school, until the other children started bullying him for being a cry baby. His uncle made matters worse by forcing him to wear a dress, claiming that this would make him man up and face the bullies down. Inevitably the amateur psychotherapy session backfired, turning the quiet, insecure child into a violent powder keg, ready to throw a punch whenever he felt victimised.

Ironically his happiest hours were spent at church, not because of the teachings, but because of the singing. This was a hobby he could latch onto, and before long, music became his religion. Charles was also deeply fascinated by the sermons, or more specifically, the effect they had on the congregation. It was here he learnt the art of capturing the attention of a crowd and keeping it in his grasp, something he would call on at a later date.

His first foray into crime was a pitiful affair, far removed from the horrors to come. The festive season had merely reinforced Charles's feelings of worthlessness. With mum in jail, Christmas had been another opportunity to ram Christian values down the boy's throat, and when he returned to school clutching a hairbrush, the only present he had received, he was overwhelmed with rage and jealousy at the other children's new toys. While everyone else was settled in class, young Charles snuck out and grabbed all the gifts from their bags and carried them out to some wasteland where he promptly soaked them in gasoline and set fire to them. He was seven years old and had already made a name for himself. The anger was building and the signs were there, but nobody took the time to notice.

When Kathleen was granted parole in 1942, mother and son took to the road again, this time Cincinnati. The pair picked





OPPOSITE PAGE
A 14-year-old Charles Manson smiles for the camera outside of the promise of an American adolescent by

LEFT
The bright lights of Las Vegas were highly appealing to Charles Manson. Frank Costello had made a tentative plan with the gambling empire.

BELOW
Outside the University of California library where Mary Brunner worked and where she first met Manson.

THE MONSTER AND THE MOBSTER

CHARLES MANSON WAS INFLUENCED BY A WIDE SELECTION OF EXTREME CHARACTERS ACROSS HIS FORMATIVE YEARS

In September 1952, Manson met famous mobster Frank Costello at the Federal Reformatory in Chillicothe, Ohio. Nicknamed the 'Prime Minister of the Underworld', young, impressionable Charlie was in awe of Costello's ability to lord it over the other inmates. While Manson was pushed about by the other criminals, Costello was given veneration. Even the prison guards showed him respect and deference, offering him his own private cell and the use of the showers on request. While Manson shouted and yelled in order to gain notoriety, Costello commanded everyone's attention with quiet menace, a trick he had learned over eight decades in the criminal world. Charlie was happy to sit at Frank's feet, listening to highly embroidered stories of the Italian's exploits running a huge Mafia-based gaming empire. Such tales gave Charlie the idea to stop dealing in petty theft, small-time robberies and car-jacking. He needed to think bigger—and for that he needed his own highly organised entourage.

Equally influential was a successful pimp who shared a cell with Manson at Terminal Island. Once again, Charlie was regaled with stories of flashy cars and an endless supply of compliant girls. Pimping appeared to be a fruitful pastime and tapped in to his pathological mistrust and overwhelming disdain for women. Such chance meetings with prosperous characters from the criminal underworld instigated a massive change in Charlie Manson's demeanour, showing him the way to manipulate people and gain their reverence while accruing a vast, personal fortune.

up where they left off, her disappearing for days on end while Charlie was farmed off to whoever cared to take him. His uncle Jess, a lowlife moonshiner, instilled some new, less Christian, family values, but even there he was a nuisance to his freewheeling mother, and so she had him taken into care. At 12 years old he found himself at Gault School for Boys, where he was cared for by Catholic monks who soon noticed his quick temper and 'persecution complex'. Kathleen promised to visit regularly but inevitably let the lonely child down. Years later, from his

“FOR THE TIME BEING, CHARLIE WAS LIVING OFF HIS STREET-SMART WITS”

jail cell, he commented, “the only thing my mother taught me was that everything she said was a lie”.

Eventually, Charlie skipped school and headed home only to have his mother phone the police and have him returned. The next time he ran away he made for Indianapolis where he stole food and petty cash in order to survive. His mother's rejection had forced him to fend for himself. He still had that Christian preaching rattling around in his brain and those mesmerising sermons would certainly come in handy later on, but for the time being, Charlie was living off his natural street-smart wits.

Getting around the city proved to be a problem so Charlie decided to steal a bike. Like most things he planned, this was yet another bad idea, only this time it landed him in front of a judge. While his mother had all but washed her hands of the boy, the judge felt sorry for the diminutive runt standing before him and consequently sent Charlie to a home for troubled boys, known as Boys Town.

Here was a place of kindness where wayward kids were nurtured rather than punished. The local papers got hold of the story showing a photo of 14-year-old Manson all scrubbed up and smiling with a tag line that read: “A dead-end kid who has lived in an emotional blind alley is happy today. He's going to Boys Town.” The problem was young Charlie wasn't happy at all, and in less than a week he and another boy, Blackie Nelson, had run away.



This time Charlie appeared to have landed on his feet since Nelson had an uncle who was more than happy to let the boys stay rent free at his home in Illinois. Unfortunately, their kindly benefactor was little more than a criminal: a slave trader, using the boys to carry out his illegal practices. He particularly liked Charlie since he could squeeze into the tiny windows that the others couldn't manage and unlock doors from the inside. His criminal education was flourishing but when a robbery went horribly wrong, Manson found himself behind bars at the Indianapolis City Juvenile Hall.

Luckily for him, time staying with uncle Nelson had taught him how to get out of a tight spot so it didn't take long for him to cut a hole in the fence and escape alongside 30 other inmates. This time the authorities weren't taking any chances so when he was quickly apprehended, they threw him in the local adult jail until they could work out what to do with him. Once again, Charlie made the papers, this time looking less salubrious, as the youngest person ever to stay in an adult prison. Of course, he couldn't stay there so Manson was transported to the Indiana School for Boys in Plainfield.

With its razor-wire fencing, high security walls and austere atmosphere, reform school was a world away from the caring ethos of Boys Town. If his mother had

helped to shape Charlie's early insecurities and persecution complex, the ISB further nurtured his lifelong mistrust and deep contempt for authority.

It was here that he suffered unbearable mistreatment at the hands of older inmates and those wardens that saw the boys as free entertainment. Having been ritually raped and assaulted, Charlie began to self-harm. Over the course of the next three years, he attempted to escape 18 times and, in 1951, he was finally successful. Having climbed over the wall, he and two other boys hotwired a car and sped away, their plan being to make it to California.

Having robbed and stolen throughout the journey, it wasn't long before the authorities caught up with them, throwing them back behind bars, this time at the National Training School for Boys in Washington, DC. By now, Charles Manson was a juvenile superstar with a ghastly reputation that preceded him. As he caused trouble, so his skinny frame would be shipped to a new institution.

Just like his mother, nobody really wanted him. Numerous psychiatric evaluations suggested there was a sensitive soul buried beneath the angry antisocial youth, but how could anyone reach it? His aunt Alene offered to take the boy back promising a stable religious framework might just save him, and amazingly the courts decided to give it a go, but if there



ABOVE

A portrait of Ron Hubbard, the founding father of Scientology. He could never have imagined the future that his philosophy would inspire.

BELOW

An inmate and other men break during the 1950s when Manson picked up a syncretic doctrine.

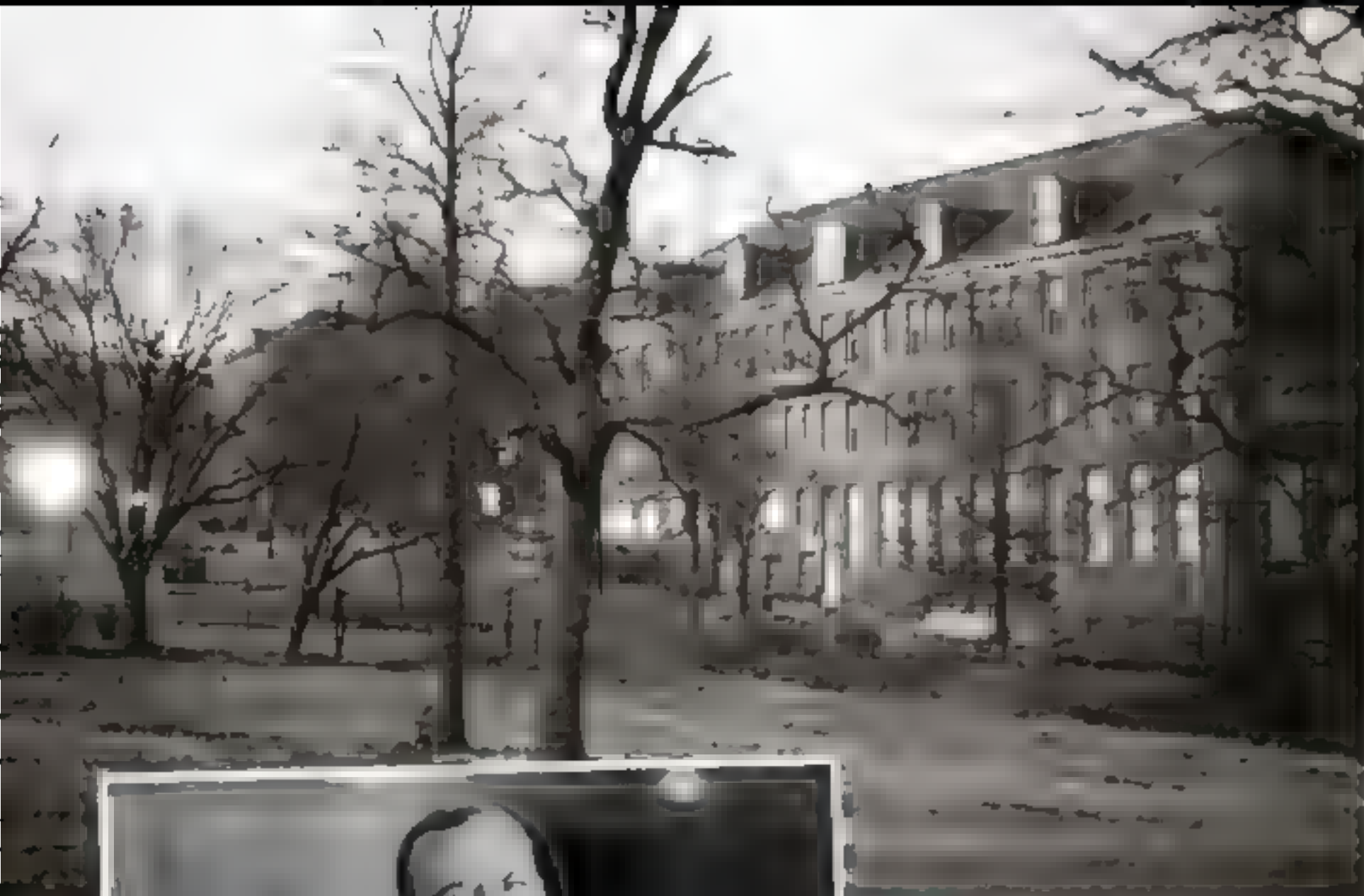
SCIENTOLOGY AND THE FREEMASONS

MANSON SOAKED UP PHILOSOPHIES LIKE A SPONGE, TAKING ASPECTS FROM EACH IDEOLOGY IN ORDER TO CREATE HIS VERY OWN.

Scientology was originally known as Dianetics, the study of 'truth'. Designed as a link between science and reality, it was meant to rid people of their individual issues and unhealthy repetitive behaviours. Manson was introduced to the concept while serving time at McNeil Island and was instantly obsessed with the notion. Inmate Lanier Ramer, who had studied Scientology under L Ron Hubbard himself, ran introductory sessions in the hopes of helping others reach 'clear status', in other words, free of all their past negative thoughts and emotions. The idea of an enlightened spiritual existence attracted a lost and confused Charlie and he quickly bought in to the new religion. But, in typical Manson fashion, the moment he had learnt all he could from Lanier, he dropped the sessions, preferring solitary confinement instead where he could focus on bettering himself and choosing the angles that suited his own particular purpose.

At the same time, the ever-inquisitive Charlie began researching the Freemasons, specifically, their complex hierarchical system of power and respect. One aspect, that of the accompanying symbolism and hand signals, stayed with him throughout his entire life, from the seemingly random images left at his victims' houses to the bizarre hand gestures he gave during interviews. He later explained, "every time I got into court [...] I use another Masonic sign [...] When the judge sees it, it really freaks him out." In this way, Manson began developing his own philosophy in his quest for a true cult status that could be emulated by his impressionable followers.





“FROM THIS POINT ON, MANSON’S BEHAVIOUR BECAME INCREASINGLY WARPED AND SEXUALLY VIOLENT”



was any good left inside of Charlie it was shrinking fast. Within weeks of his release he was arrested again, for attempting to rape a boy at knifepoint, and thrown back in prison.

From this point on, Manson’s behaviour became increasingly warped and sexually violent until the penny dropped and he realised that if he continued in this vein, he was never getting out. With a suspiciously well-timed epiphany Charlie began to behave himself even helping the guards by maintaining their vehicles. To this end, at

the age of 19, he was released and sent back to his aunt and uncle in McMechen.

Charlie settled down, picking up handyman jobs and even getting married to a local girl, Rosalie Jean Willis, but when she fell pregnant he soon realised that this life was not for him. Stealing a car, the pair headed off for California in the hopes of a new and exciting life. Once there, Charlie and his new bride gravitated to Venice Beach and the assortment of misfits that resided there, a place he would return to when searching for willing acolytes.

Sadly, his breach of parole meant he landed in prison once again, and when Rosalie stopped visiting he realised that yet another woman had forsaken him. He would never trust the fairer sex again, seeing them as a means to an end and nothing more. This final blow pushed Charlie over the edge of a precipice that he had been clinging to for some time. Later psychiatric reports failed to spot the previously noted sensitive soul, referring to him as an institutionalised sociopath.

On release, Charlie set up business pimping young, impressionable girls out to paying clients. Combining his superficial charm with psilocybin mushrooms, he gathered together a bevy of obedient women happy to work for him and, for a

TOP

The National Training School for Boys in Washington, DC, where he received his first psychiatric assessment.

BELOW LEFT

Frank Costello, the American mobster, took young Charlie under his wing and taught him how to think big.

BELOW LEFT

A mugshot of a young Charles Manson in 1956, taken at Terminal Island.

while, he appeared contented. However, word of his nefarious exploits landed him back in jail, this time for a ten-year stretch.

Once back behind bars, Charlie began to read his Bible, noting a striking similarity between Jesus and himself, two men sorely misunderstood and repeatedly rejected. He started scouring the prison library reading texts on hypnosis, psychiatry, Freemasonry and Scientology. This mishmash of ideals and theories churned inside his brain forming a new, warped belief system of Charlie’s own making.

He also turned back to his first love of music, taking a battered guitar left behind by a previous inmate and being taught to play it by none other than ‘Public Enemy Number One’ ‘Creepy’ Karpis of the Ma Barker Gang. Using his newfound philosophical ramblings as lyrics, Charlie began writing songs, looking to the Beatles’ music for inspiration. A chance meeting with Phil Kaufman ensured that he would have a musical contact when he was eventually released.

That time arrived on 21 March 1967 whereupon Manson, with his weird beliefs and dubious values, entered a new psychedelic America. He quickly set himself up in San Francisco where the people didn’t care to know his past and were happy to share their LSD. Setting himself up outside the University of California, he began busking and entrancing the bored students and workers alike. One such spectator was librarian Mary Brunner.

The quiet, bookish girl was instantly taken with the charismatic stranger and offered him a place to crash. It would not be long before the innocent, gentle woman would walk beside him, supporting him in all his dark ventures. Soon after on a trip to Venice Beach, Manson discovered a pretty 18-year-old sitting on her suitcase trying into a handkerchief. Sensing the desperation and weakness, Charlie turned on the charm and, within minutes, had the girl eating out of his hand. Her name was Lynette Fromme. Calmly he introduced himself as ‘The Gardener’, the one who tends to the flower children.

Suddenly all the elements that had shaped Charlie’s formative years came together. The rejection, mistrust, anger, bullying, misogynistic hatred of women, hypnotic sermonising, Bible-bashing punishments and general lack of empathy towards mankind coalesced, forming the fanatical prophet of evil that stood before her. Little Charlie had become Charles Manson the Monster, ready to embrace his new Family.



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DARKER SHADES OF HAIGHT

THE COUNTERCULTURE MECCA FOR FREE EXPRESSION AND PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE INADVERTENTLY PROVIDED FERTILE GROUND FOR MORE SINISTER ELEMENTS TO FLOURISH

WORDS STEPHEN LEE



Every generation has its rebellious thinkers, movers and shakers who move about the fringes of mainstream culture. The hippie phenomenon was an inevitable result of the 1960s' social atmosphere, morphed from the previous era's beatniks - literary champions of anti-establishment and anti-materialism in the post-WWII 1950s.

Among the most prolific and recalcitrant poster boys of the beatnik movement were the likes of Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and Neal Cassady. Although the former was regaled within the following decade, he rejected much of the next

ABOVE The intersection where the hippie movement was rooted - Haight and Ashbury streets, San Francisco

generation's adulation and ideology; the latter two - along with other major players - however moved fluidly into the new culture of the 1960s, and thus embraced the new idealism, vividly colourful attire, psychedelic drugs, long hair, communal living, poetry and music.

"They (hippies) are not something that came out from under a rock. They are sending the message that something is wrong but it is not being received. They are looking for something different from the two concerns of the American empire - profit and private property," Peter Cohen, of the Diggers community group, said in 1967.

The promised land for the new social rebellion established itself three miles from San Francisco, centralised within an approximate five-block region - extending 15 blocks - surrounding the intersection of Haight-Ashbury. Despite a markedly short-lived heyday (1967's Summer of Love), "The Haight" stood as the literal nexus of like-minded free spirits who embraced the artistic expression - specifically music. The Fillmore and Winterland, ballrooms that once featured swing and jazz, had become relaxed bohemian hangouts where the hippie society converged for almost nightly musical events. "The beginnings."

wrote Geoffrey Link in a 1969 article titled 'This Generation', were "at da hippie commune at 1090 Page Street in the Haight with twice-a-week jam sessions by new groups, such as Big Brother and the Holding Company, pre-Janis Joplin." And when novelist Ken Kesey and his Merry Band of Pranksters "with their series of weird freak-out affairs called Acid Tests" paved the way for ballroom exp.orts. In Haight-Ashbury the tunes held much higher importance than mere entertainment value. Regarding the importance of the music scene in the Haight district, Link also noted that musical entertainment in other cities was "not an integral part of a developing lifestyle as it is at the informal San Francisco ballrooms."

Sexual freedom, communal living, and the use of marijuana and LSD were just a

“NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA CONDEMNED IT AS MERELY A SHOCK EFFECT”

few of the commonplace aspects included in the lifestyle. "The big movement began with the opening of The Psychedelic Ship (TPS) which provided a central point of communications about such things as marijuana and LSD, the necessities of life in a turned-on world." Bob Rose wrote in May 1967 "No one knows how many hippies actually live in the district now. But estimates range from 3,000 to 10,000 plus another 25,000 weekend hippies."

To the status quo, society's majority, the scene was quite confounding and – as anything outside the expected norm is often viewed – something to be feared. The hippies with their sex, drugs and rock n' roll, and even the fashion. Clothing (when they wore it) – a barrage of clashing patterns, wild, bright yellows, avocado, beige and paisley, blue jeans and the adopted styles of Eastern cultures, it all seemed just too unconventional for the masses. Some of the talking heads of various national news media condemned it as merely a 'shock effect' and minced no words in voicing their disapproval of such social dissidence.

"The most important thing in the life of a hippie" wrote Chicago columnist Mike Royko in a 1968 op-ed "is not his pot or even another hippie. It is the person who gets angry, shocked or nervous when a hippie appears." Royko went on to dismiss

the hippie fad's ability to "shock" anywhere outside San Francisco, particularly addressing his hometown of Chicago, "a city that had Capone and Accardo, dead bodies and dead alewives (a type of fish), beer riots and race riots, isn't going to be fazed by a horde of kids with long hair and beards."

While the moral majority may have largely agreed with the shared sentiments of staunch anti-hippie zealots, it's exactly what brought about the congregation in San Francisco, and incidentally spread to many major cities across the world. In short, the hippies were welcoming of virtually everyone who felt like an outsider in regular society: the dreamers, artists, explorers, idealists. The agenda organically transformed to include deeper emphasis on social and political change; music and art proved viable vehicles for delivering the messages of equal rights and anti-war. Basically, the core of the original hippie movement had been built on good intentions, but as the old saying goes "the road to hell is often paved with good intentions." Thus it was nearly inevitable the safety and serenity of such an open and eclectic scene was bound to attract less than desirable elements. Further it should be noted, the Haight-Ashbury sensation wasn't limited to the so-called 'flower children' and the hippie spectacle. Religious groups also set up shop, distinctly unusual to say the least. From the Eastern vibe of Hare Krishnas to the hedonistic, devil's horns and topless rituals of the Church of Satan, the Haight had it all by the time the Summer of Love arrived in 1967.



ABOVE
636 Cole Street
where Manson
lived
during his time
in San Francisco

BELOW LEFT
Concert Poster
1967. Music
mattered almost
more than anything
else when the
Haight hippie
movement began

BELOW RIGHT
Among the many
provocative
attractions in
1960s San
Francisco was
Anton LaVey's
Church of Satan

WHERE EVIL ONCE LIVED

THE LITTLE PLACE WHERE CRAZY CHARLIE AND HIS BURGEONING BROOD RESIDED

The Haight-Ashbury district has come to be recognised for its colourful history of hippie peace, love, sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, but one of the 20th century's most sinister figures briefly called it home. Charles Manson's creepy rise into infamy began unfolding while living at 636 Cole Street, a place he rented with some of his first recruits, which included Susan Atkins, who occasionally performed in ecstasie rituals for the nearby Church of Satan. Manson and crew left the area in the autumn of 1967, moved to Southern California and began recruiting male followers before initiating his warped and brutal murder plans. The building still stands and as of 2014 was being considered as a potential historic resource.





ABOVE

Several hundred hippies gathered at "Hippie Hill" in Golden Gate Park for a musical happening

“WITH SO MANY LOST SOULS LOOKING FOR PURPOSE, MANSON CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE”

“The hippie scene on Haight Street in San Francisco was so very visual that photographers came from everywhere to shoot it, reporters came from everywhere to write it up with speed,” author Mark Harris wrote of the phenomenon in 1967—and opportunists came from everywhere to exploit its drug addiction, its sexual possibility, and its political or social ferment.” The scene had quickly attracted runaways, drug dealers, con artists, and parolees from San Quentin prison.

Then came the world’s most infamously nefarious opportunist, a would-be musician with a maniacal mindset and mission to

charm others into his own personal cult. With so many lost souls looking for purpose and validation, Charles Manson came to the right place at the right time.

The man who became quite possibly the most infamous criminal of the entire 20th century had malignant intentions and expertise in the art of manipulation long before he dropped in on the hippie scene of San Francisco. Among the many desperate and impressionable recruits he acquired in the Haight were Berkeley area librarian Mary Brunner and the one-time topless nightclub employee of the Church of Satan Susan Atkins.



DARKER SHADES OF HAIGHT

Manson's time in Haight Ashbury was short, but not without profound effect. He drew in precisely what he wanted - a few lost souls seeking their guru. Crazy Charlie packed his female flock into a VW bus and set course for Southern California, with evil plans that soon came to fruition.

As for the Haight's Summer of Love, the peace and love movement spread across the country and eventually the social changes the hippies sought began to slowly materialise - even if substantially watered down - in the political spectrum. The Haight's original and true-to-heart hippie demographic, however, had come to a decision to put the 'hippie' to sleep and literally held a 'funeral' to commemorate the movement's death.

In October 1967, tired of the media hype and all that went with it, a three-day mock funeral celebration took place, ending on 6 October. Among those spearheading the proverbial dirt nap for hippiedom was the proprietor of the Psychedelic

Shop, Ron Thein. 'It must all go,' Thein told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, adding the whole movement became 'a casualty of narcissism and plebeian vanity [...] (Haight Ashbury) was portioned to us by the media police and the tourists came to the zoo to see the captive animals, and we growled fiercely behind the bars we accepted, and now we are no longer hippies and never were.'

The official hippie movement may have ended in the autumn of 1967 but the trend continued elsewhere well into the early 1970s. Following the brutal murder spree Charles Manson's so-called Family went on. In 1969 Manson's brief, arguably loose relationship with the hippie era and the Haight Ashbury region was enough to have seared an unfortunate scar into the conservative psyche for many years thereafter. In 2014, however, the property where Crazy Charlie once resided - 636 Cole Street - was being considered as a 'potential historic resource'.

HAIL SATAN

ANTON LAVEY'S CHURCH OF SATAN, AKA THE BLACK HOUSE, ADDED A DARKER TOUCH TO THE HAIGHT

Trippy colours and flower power weren't the only sights to behold in Haight-Ashbury's Summer of Love. Standing out from the other Victorian structures was Anton Lavey's Church of Satan. The house that once stood at 6114 California Street was painted black and served as headquarters for Satanic rituals. Lavey, a natural showman, grew to despise religious hypocrisy and started his own hedonistic church, replete with chants, marriage ceremonies and nude rituals that attracted the curious onlooker and celebrity members alike. Following the heinous murder spree committed by Manson's minions, Anton Lavey's loose connection to Susan Atkins drew out conspiracy theories and accusations. Lavey was quick to address the public relations nightmare, dismissing any association with Manson. In one of his many interviews Lavey referred to Charles Manson as a 'mad dog killer,' adding 'he should be taken out in Parkling Square and drawn and quartered.'

RIGHT
The Church of Satan's provocative rituals, often involving nudity



Church of Satan, San Francisco

THE 'FAMILY'

MOST FAMILIES HAVE THE OCCASIONAL BLACK SHEEP, SOMEONE THEY WOULD RATHER FORGET EXISTED, BUT WITH MANSON'S CLAN, THE ENTIRE FAMILY CAME STRAIGHT FROM HELL ITSELF

BY DANIEL J. FRYER

When Charles Manson finally passed away in 2017, his *New York Times* obituary described him as the "wild-eyed leader of a murderous crew". On the surface, it appears the world is, and always has been, obsessed with the depraved ring-leader Charlie, but it could be argued that the real interest lies not with Manson, but with his minions. At 157 centimetres (five-feet two-inches) tall, the small-time criminal and failed musician would be nothing but a footnote in the annals of criminal history, if it hadn't been for his uncanny capacity to hypnotise and mesmerise, and for the outrageous entourage he acquired as a result.

The images of the staring psychopath captured like a wild beast in chains that flooded the media during his trial are indeed shocking, but the feral hippies who were rounded up at the same time are equally disturbing. The general public were every bit as interested in the girls who were prepared to carry out any order asked of them alongside the chanting wraiths that haunted the sidewalk outside the Los Angeles courthouse, turning the trial into a media spectacle. So who was this terrifying rabble and where on earth did Manson find them?

Charlie Manson had never felt like he truly belonged anywhere. After all, he had been the illegitimate child brought into a deeply religious household, spurned by his own mother, unrecognised by his father, and ultimately rejected by society. Alone, he was nothing: a petty criminal with an unimpressive rap sheet. He had a nice voice and could play the guitar, but so could most drifting hippies in San Francisco during the Summer of Love. When it came to making a career in the music industry, he just didn't have what it takes to stand out, and so, once again, he was rebuffed.

Such isolation coupled with a crippling persecution complex meant it was only a

matter of time before his personal ticking time bomb would explode. He desperately needed to do something big, something remarkable, and so, when he was finally released from prison in March 1967, he decided to change everything. If people had overlooked him up to this point, they wouldn't do so in the future. If his own family didn't appreciate him, he would create one that did.

While in jail, Manson had read the iconic book *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie. He had even taken self-help classes in order to reshape his life. As soon as he arrived in San Francisco he started practising on the drug-addled teens floating up and down Haight-Ashbury, quickly earning himself the nickname 'The Gardener' since he 'tended' to the young flowers living there. It was during this time that he met the first member of what would become the infamous Manson Family.

Charlie enjoyed talking to the disillusioned students at the University of California and busking for small change. During one such impromptu performance he started chatting to a young assistant librarian by the name of Mary Theresa Brunner. The shy 23-year-old, originally from Wisconsin, was instantly taken with Manson's superficial charm, and on hearing of his homeless status, offered him a place to stay. Unlike the hundreds of hippies milling around, this was completely uncharacteristic behaviour for the history graduate, but Manson had worked his magic and Mary was smitten. Within a matter of weeks, he was sharing her bed and changing the course of her life forever. Her once tidy, secure apartment became the first crash pad for Manson's early Family, which comprised 18 hippie chicks who basked in his easy charm and lapped up his meaningless psycho-babble.

When Manson decided to take to the road in a Volkswagen van, Mary gave in



FROM HELL



“CHARLES WOULD PREY UPON VULNERABLE, DISILLUSIONED YOUNG WOMEN”

her notice and walked away from the last vestiges of the normal world. In April 1968 she gave birth to his first son, Valentine Michael, while his girls delivered the baby and he cut the umbilical cord with his teeth.

Just like Mary Lynette Fromme was an innocent girl from a regular middle-class background. With a beautiful voice and a sunny disposition, things should have been rosy for the pretty young redhead, but her father was a tyrannical man who was never satisfied with his daughter's efforts.

The abuse increased until Lynette snapped and began self-harming, shooting herself in the arm with a staple gun. Underage drinking and drug abuse quickly followed, until two suicide attempts later when she decided to run away. She was an easy target for Manson, who discovered her sitting on her suitcase on Venice Beach, crying into a hanky. Charlie offered her everything she had thus far lacked in her life: attention and appreciation. Years later, Fromme would describe Charlie as having “a smile that went from warm daddy to twinkly devil. I couldn't tell what he was.” Unfortunately, at this stage no one could have guessed what he was or where the decision to join him would lead her.

It didn't take long for more young women to throw their world up into the air and place their lives in Manson's hands, leaving behind their safe, middle-class existence. A pattern of behaviour soon became apparent: Charles would prey upon vulnerable young women who were in some way disillusioned with their lot in life, shower them with warmth and understanding, before luring them back to his ever-growing entourage.

He soaked up philosophies, such as those espoused by the Process Church and Scientology, gave it his own unique spin and fed it back to the Family who believed every word without question. Other equally average young girls with mundane jobs and steady backgrounds followed the same path. 18-year-old Patricia Krenwinkel was a quiet bank teller, but just like all the other Family members, she was deeply insecure, and it was this vulnerability that Charlie instinctively honed in on and took advantage of. Other men might think



Patricia was overweight, but not Charlie, who was quick to show her just how attractive she really was.

When Susan Atkins lost her mother to leukaemia and descended into a downward spiral of drugs and unhealthy, often violent relationships, it was Manson who picked her up and showed her that suicide was not the way out. Riddled with venereal disease and out of her mind on acid tabs, Susan danced the night away with the long-haired hippie stranger, reportedly knowing instantly that “he was something that I had been looking for.”

ABOVE
Manson's Family members talk with reporters outside the courthouse during Charles Manson's trial

However, it wasn't just impressionable girls who fell for his patter. Bobby ‘Cupid’ Beausoleil was just 17 when he stumbled across Manson. Although he, like many of the Family, came from a secure background, Bobby had rejected the love of his parents and had already clocked up an impressive rap sheet for his teenage rebellious actions. He had also dabbled in the occult, working with Kenneth Anger on a movie, *Lucifer Rising*, which intrigued Manson. When his musical career stalled, Bobby took a job acting in a soft porn movie alongside a Hollywood wannabe by the name of



LEFT
The 39 members of Heaven's Gate who committed suicide were found covered in purple shrouds and wearing Nike trainers

BELOW
Charles refused to allow a woman to join the Family to take care of him, which resulted in many young children of the Family Ranch

HEAVEN'S GATE

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST FAMOUS VIOLENT CULT, MANSON'S FAMILY IS NOT THE ONLY CRIMINAL GROUP TO END IN BLOODSHED

A cult usually has a highly charismatic leader who exploits his members in some way. No one embodies this position better than Charles Manson, but others have become equally notorious. Like Manson, Bonnie Nettles and Marshall Applewhite based their UFO cult, known as Heaven's Gate, on the Book of Revelation, convincing their 200 members that they were on a divine mission. The pair stole key points from Christianity in order to create their own self-serving manifesto, which also incorporated elements of science fiction. While Manson managed to convince the Family that he was Jesus Christ reborn, Nettles and Applewhite rejected traditional religious beliefs, claiming to be alien life forms that came from a 'level above human'. They convinced members that it was their divine mission to help others to make the transition from Planet Earth to the 'Next Level'. Known collectively as 'The Two', Nettles and Applewhite became media sensations, but they lost many members when it became clear that they would have to abstain from sex and drugs to reach the next level. When Nettles died in 1985, Applewhite convinced 39 dedicated members to commit suicide and join her at the Next Level by riding on the back of the Hale-Bopp Comet.

Catherine Stark. The pair were both disillusioned by the direction their lives were taking them so it didn't take much for Manson to persuade them to join the Family and, before too long, they were carrying out his heinous crimes.

At 25, Bruce Davis was older than most other Family members, but his long flowing hair and interest in Scientology made him an easy fit and the Family were happy to let him drift along as a member.

However, out of the male members of the Family Charles Tex Watson was the

most influential character and a central member of the Family. Like his leader Watson had been brought up in a religious household, regularly attending the night services and even running the local church youth group. He was a keen athlete and an excellent student but, having dropped out of university to join the hippie movement, he met Manson at a party held by Beach Boy Brian Wilson and gave up on any notion of a normal healthy life. Tex and Charles understood one another from the start and it wasn't long before he was following Manson's orders, no matter how dark they became.

The Family's initial belief system was painfully simple; fun, games, love, sex, peaceful friendship for all. Peripheral members came and went but the core group stayed together all times. Manson insisted the only time that mattered was the here and now. Everything that had occurred in the past was unimportant. This was supposedly intended to help the girls leave their troubles behind but in reality it ensured that all ties with their true families were severed once and for all, and, just as the past melted away into the ether, the future was equally unimportant. Of course, this notion would soon change when Manson began peddling his doomsday prophecy but for the time being, he was happy for the Family to drift along in the hazy present. This relaxed philosophy, based on the current hippie culture, but with a little of Manson's own personal needs thrown in, was an easy pill for the girls to swallow. Some, like Lynette



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THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLES

MANY FOLLOWERS OF MANSON DRIFTED IN AND OUT OF THE HIPPIE COMMUNE BUT AN INTEGRAL FEW BECAME KEY PLAYERS IN HIS DERANGED FAMILY



TEX WATSON

As Manson's right-hand man, Charles Watson killed more people than any other disciple. Along with Manson, he was considered to be the brains behind the Family although he always deferred to his 'messiah' and obeyed all orders passed down to him. Originally from Dallas, he eventually dropped out of college and drifted to California where he met up with Manson and moved into the Spahn Ranch. When the police stormed the commune, Tex fled back to Texas, where he spent nine months avoiding extradition, thereby missing the notorious 1970 trial alongside Manson. His death sentence was ultimately revised to life.



BOBBY BEAUSOLEIL

Bobby was always considered to be the beautiful disciple. His good looks ensured he was given roles in movies but it soon became apparent that there was little in the way of talent behind the megawatt smile, as the offers quickly dried up. The hippie musician consistently denied being part of Manson's cult and claimed he never had his mind 'controlled'. However, he was prepared to kill on command. While in jail, he built musical instruments and painted pictures which he then sold online. He is one of the few Family members to show signs of genuine remorse.



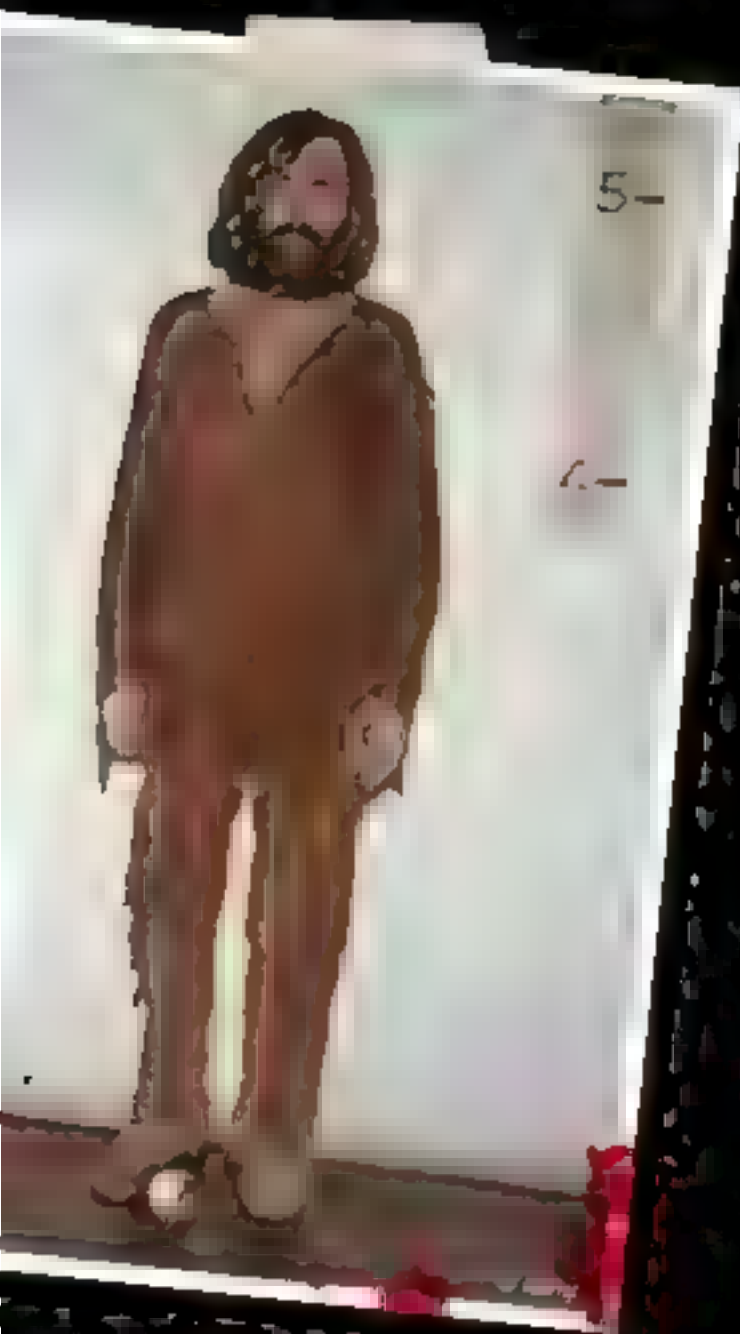
BRUCE DAVIS

Bruce Davis was born in Louisiana, on the 5 October 1942. The intelligent teenager had attended the University of Tennessee for three years before travelling to California in 1962. By 1967, he had moved to Oregon where he met Fromme, Brunner and Krenwinkel, who introduced him to Manson. The two men enjoyed each other's company but Davis was not to join the Family until the summer of 1969, after he had returned to California from London where he had spent time working at the Church of Scientology's headquarters. Having participated in two murders for Manson, Davis disappeared but eventually gave himself up in 1970.



SUSAN ATKINS

Atkins was the most dramatic of Manson's girls and his most prolific female killer. Although she later claimed to be remorseful, she spent the majority of her life bragging about her involvement in the Carnival of Terror orchestrated by Manson, having joined the group in 1967. Nicknamed Crazy Sadie by the Family, she bore Manson a son whom he named Zezose Zedfrack Glutz. Her death sentence was commuted to life in prison in 1972 when California's Supreme Court abolished the death penalty. She died from brain cancer in 2009 having been denied a request for parole for compassionate reasons.



STEVE GROGAN

Steve Grogan had a history of insanity and was known to the police for numerous crimes, including counts of indecent exposure, long before he joined the Family. Although he was never as integral to the running of the group as Tex Watson, he was heavily involved with the Family's most violent actions and was ultimately convicted of two homicides instigated by Charlie Manson. His fragile mental state made him an obvious candidate for the cult, following Manson's orders without question and accepting his doomsday prophecy, Helter Skelter. He was later paroled after he helped authorities find the body of Donald Shea.



PATRICIA KRENWINKEL

21-year-old Patricia joined Charles Manson's Family just three days after being introduced to him. So taken with the hypnotic psychopath was she that she left behind her comfortable middle-class existence in order to live with him at the now-infamous Spahn Ranch. Like so many of his girls, she was happy to follow his brutal orders, killing on command, although she later claimed that she had been abused by Manson before carrying out the heinous murders. Having been denied parole at least 14 times, she is now California's longest-serving female prisoner.



LESLIE VAN HOUTEN

At 19 years old, Leslie Van Houten was the youngest member of the Family to actually participate in the murders. Her innocence and inexperience made her an easy target for Charlie Manson's preaching and she was happy to leave her real family behind in order to join the hippie commune at Spahn Ranch. Her infamy continued after her capture when her attorney, Ronald Hughes, was murdered. The suspected killers were members of the Family. In 2016, California's governor Jerry Brown turned down her plea for parole, claiming that she was still "an unreasonable danger to society."

THE 'FAMILY' FROM HELL

Fromme had genuine grievances with their upbringing and craved a gentler existence while others, such as Bobby Beausoleil, were looking for an excuse to subvert the system. Either way, there were plenty of eccentric characters looking to join Charlie's special Family.

Along with his disregard for both the past and the future, Manson had another psychological trick up his sleeve to disassociate his flock from their families. As each new member arrived, Charlie gave them a pet name, an affectionate custom that hid a much darker motive. Each name evoked a particular trait their new leader found appealing. Catherine Share was renamed 'Gypsy'. Watson became 'Tex'. Susan Atkins became 'Sadie Mae Glutz' and Brunner became 'Mother Mary', while Patricia Krenwinkel was renamed 'Katie' since, in Manson's eyes, it better suited her sweet, innocent features. The kids were thrilled with their new monikers since it was a sign of Charlie's acceptance into the group and gave them a sense of truly belonging to something. However, from Manson's point of view, this rebirthing eroded the last control their parents had over their children. In renaming them, he had created his very own Family where he could be the father. For a time, both parent and children were genuinely happy.

Drugs played a major role in the counterculture sweeping across America, but for Manson, it was a vital component in the deconstruction of any moral fibre given to them by their real relatives. Some of his followers were already well accustomed to mind-altering substances. Susan Atkins had been hospitalised through misuse of drugs long before she crossed paths with Manson. But for others, such as Brunner or Krenwinkel, who had at one time contemplated becoming a nun, drug use was something other people did. Charlie quickly made it clear that if you wanted to belong to the Family, heart and soul, you had to give yourself over to the collective group and that meant free-for-all sex. For some of the girls, this was an alien concept at first, but the accompanying near-constant drug abuse soon obliterated any awkwardness. Manson's personal favourite comprised a heady cocktail of LSD and marijuana, but the introduction of PCP and crystal meth certainly added to the unravelling of the Family. Before long, he had created a company of malleable, adoring kids who were happy to give up all free will and put themselves in Manson's ever-loving, capable hands. He finally had what he had always wanted, a family of his own.



LINDA KASABIAN

At 20 years old, Linda was a twice-divorced mother when she and her little girl, Tanya, joined Manson's Family. Since she was the only member of the group with a legal driving licence, she drove the other disciples to the murder sites, acting as lookout while the others went inside to slaughter their victims. She is one of the few of Manson's girls to show remorse, even having a mental breakdown over the guilt she felt. She was granted immunity in exchange for her testimony, which led to the conviction of Manson, Watson, Atkins, Krenwinkel and Van Houten.



CATHERINE SHARE

Catherine 'Gypsy' Share was involved in the attempted murder of Barbara Hoyt but was ultimately handed down a lesser sentence of 'conspiracy to dissuade a witness from testifying'. A key player in keeping the Family profile in the media after the trial had taken place, she was ultimately convicted, alongside the other Family members, of armed robbery and an attempt to hijack a 747 in order to secure the release of Manson and the jailed Family members.



SANDRA GOOD

The daughter of a San Diego stockbroker, Sandra Good was imprisoned in 1976 for 'conspiracy to send threatening letters through the mail'. Although not directly involved with the murders, she carried out various tasks within the Family, including sending many letters to key company executives in order to put fear into the hearts of the 'authorities'. She also made threatening phone calls, thereby maintaining the terrifying reputation of the Family after Manson's incarceration and keeping the cult in the media's spotlight. She was paroled at the same time as Steve Grogan when she also helped locate the body of Donald Shea.



SQUEAKY FROMME

Although Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme did not take part in the actual murders, she was an integral part of the Family and, alongside Susan Atkins, is generally thought to be Manson's right-hand woman. When he was taken into custody, it was Squeaky who became acting head of the Family in his absence. She was arrested in connection with the attempted murder of prosecution witness Barbara Hoyt and given a 90-day sentence. In 1975 she was convicted of attempting to assassinate President Gerald Ford. She made a prison break in 1987 but was quickly recaptured and eventually released for good in 2009.



Life in the Family meant travelling light and roaming free. Their nomadic disposition required wheels and over the course of their time together the Family acquired a number of unusual modes of transport. Clearly they weren't all going to fit into an average car so they were always on the hunt for something more suitable. Initially a black Volkswagen minibus, with its ample sleeping space served them well, but as the Family grew in number, it was upgraded to an old yellow and black school bus. Manson was quick to tell the girls the bus had been involved in a fatal

ABOVE
The Family's minibus, which was involved in a fatal accident, is shown in a black and white photograph.

BELOW
On 2 December 1969, a resident woke up to the news that Manson had been arrested for multiple murders at the time.

“CHARLIE HAD CHANGED FROM WARM-HEARTED FATHER FIGURE TO ALL-POWERFUL MESSIAH WHOSE WORD WAS LAW”

accident where many young children had drowned after the bus had plummeted into a lake. Having ingested vast quantities of hallucinogens, the Family proceeded to reenact the disaster and perform an exorcism to banish any remaining spirits.

The interior was decked out like a Bedouin tent with purple velvet curtains, beanbags, peacock feathers and an obligatory hookah. As the Family travelled from town to town, onlookers marvelled at their happy hippie bus, but the gold brocade was hiding a darker mission. For Manson now had complete control over his people. And as his power grew, the ethos behind the Family began to warp. As the jolly bus rode across L.A., it enticed younger runaways to join the Family. Dianne Lake, renamed ‘Snake’, was only 14 when she jumped on board, unaware of where the bus would ultimately take her. Later vehicles included a rusty black and yellow Ford, used by the Family on their ‘creepy crawls’ where they would stake out their prey, and two four-wheel-drive Army-surplus Power Wagons, which Manson and his Family used to get to and from their hideout ranch in Death Valley. One such vehicle remains broken down

under the baking sun to this day, covered in black-painted pentacles, the only hint of its former owner.

As Manson's paranoia grew, the atmosphere within the Family drastically altered. What had been a fun-filled hippie ride quickly descended into madness and mistrust. Charlie had changed from warm-hearted father figure to a powerful messiah whose word was law. Unfortunately, the ‘living for the moment’ viewpoint had been taken over by a new, darker philosophy that required some shadowy behaviour. ‘Helter Skelter’, the insane doomsday prophecy foretold by Manson, was fully embraced by the Family, who by this time had become his crazed disciples. If anyone thought things were going wrong, they were too frightened to back out now, and most of his drug-addicted acolytes were unable to think for themselves any longer. So either way, what Manson wanted, Manson got. Through careful manipulation, the Family had become a malleable cult with a madman at the helm. When he ordered the execution of Gary Hinman, Bobby Beausoleil repeatedly stabbed his friend in

Final **DAILY NEWS** **10¢**
NEW YORK'S FASTEST GROWING PAPER

ARREST WEIRDO IN TATE MURDER

Hunt Two Girls as Suspects



*Cops Hunt
3 Suspects*

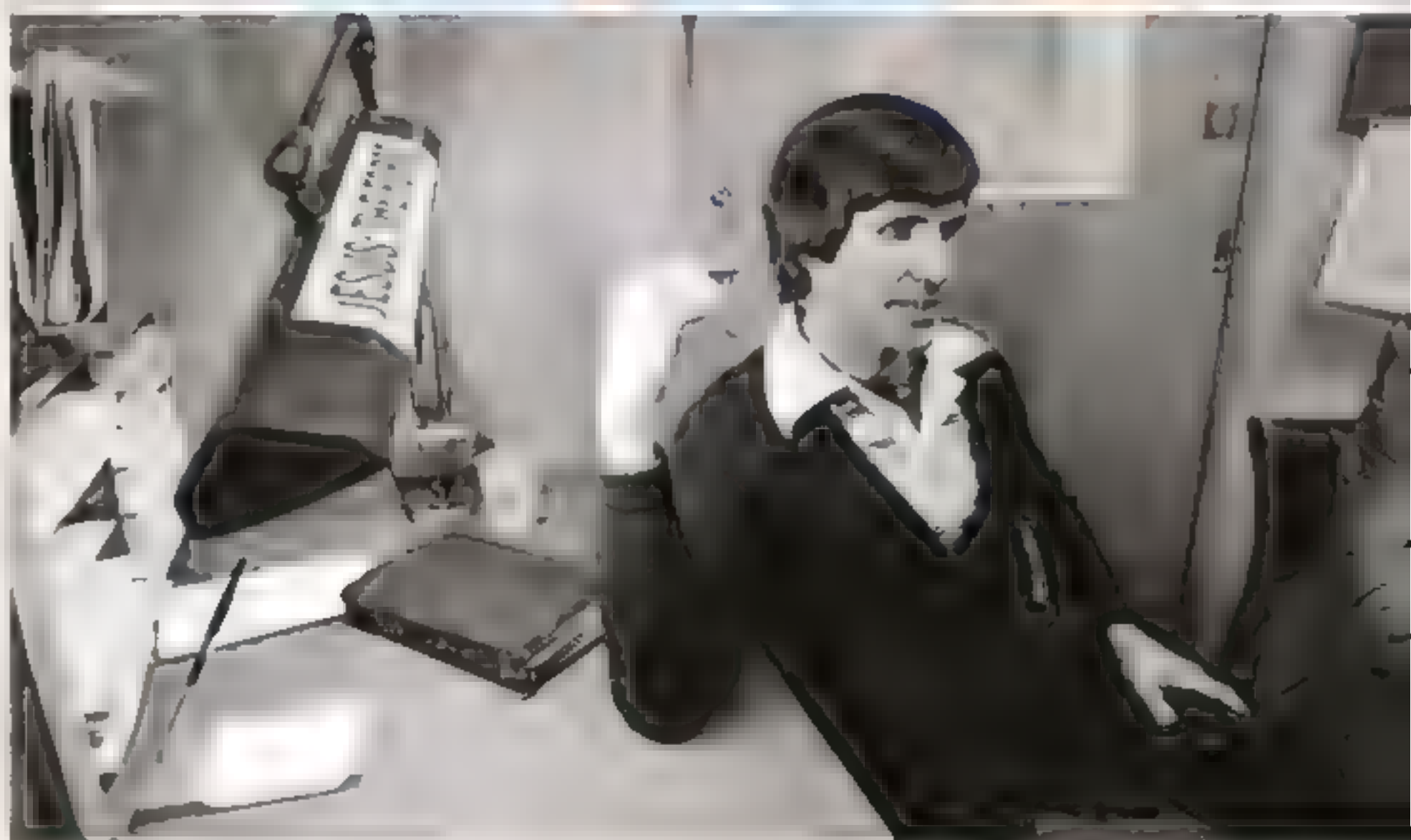
Lindsay: 20¢ Fare Doomed

the chest while Susan Atkins and former librarian Mary Brunner held a pillow over his screaming mouth. Ex-church youth group leader Tex Watson happily led Susan 'Sadie' Atkins, Patricia 'Katie' Krenwinkel and Linda Kasabian to 10050 Cielo Drive, where the now-infamous Tate murders took place. The following night, the brutal LaBianca murders occurred where Katie Krenwinkel, the former Sunday School teacher, and Lesae Van Houten stabbed victim Rosemary LaBianca 41 times, before Katie scored the word 'WAR' into Leno LaBianca's stomach. The three then settled down in their victim's kitchen, to eat cheese from the fridge and drink chocolate milk. They did all this because Charlie had told them to do it.

Somewhat, Charles Manson had fed these young, impressionable girls and boys a concoction of half-baked philosophies, a constant stream of drugs and total isolation from the real world, until they had all but forgotten their quiet former selves and become thoughtless mass murderers without an ounce of compassion for anyone but their messiah.

During the trial, those lucky enough not to have been arrested, showed their undying allegiance to Manson by causing a scene outside the courthouse. Led by Squeaky Fromme, the girls loitered on the sidewalk, causing disruption where possible and intimidating witnesses as they entered and exited the building. When Charlie shaved his long, flowing hair off claiming, "I am the Devil, and the Devil always has a bad hair," the Family appeared the following day with matching shaven heads. When the r leader cut an X into his forehead, so too did the women sitting cross-legged on the pathway, chanting and singing. Each wore a sheathed hunting knife on their thigh. The unnerving sight only added to the media circus and ensured the Family would go down in criminal history alongside their messiah.

However, they were prepared to do more than merely put on a show. When former Family member Barbara Hoyt decided to testify against Manson, the fanatical girls attempted to silence her once and for all. Ruth Ann Morchouse, renamed 'Guschi' laced a burger with multiple doses of LSD. The attempted murder failed. Similarly, ex-member Paul Watkins was badly burned when his van caught fire under suspicious circumstances. Even during the trial, Manson could instigate murderous behaviour from his Family. When his own lawyer Ronald Hughes, irritated him in court, Manson declared, "I don't ever want



TOP

Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Lesae Van Houten showed little remorse as they appeared in court for their part in the 1969 killings.

ABOVE

Away from Manson's influence, Charles Watson became assistant pastor at San Juan Obispo Prison.

to see you in this courtroom again." A few days later, he went camping, never to be seen alive again. It has long since been accepted that the Family 'dealt' with him on behalf of their leader.

After Manson was convicted, Fromme chose to follow him from prison to prison, keeping the Family together where she could, and even showing her continued support by attempting to assassinate President Gerald Ford.

Terrifyingly, Manson's sadistic, twisted Family continued to wreak havoc long after his incarceration, even being implicated with a murder in the United Kingdom. The death of Joel Pugh is shrouded in mystery and due to his brief and tenuous connection with Manson, it has been argued that his suspicious death occurred at the hands of the Family.

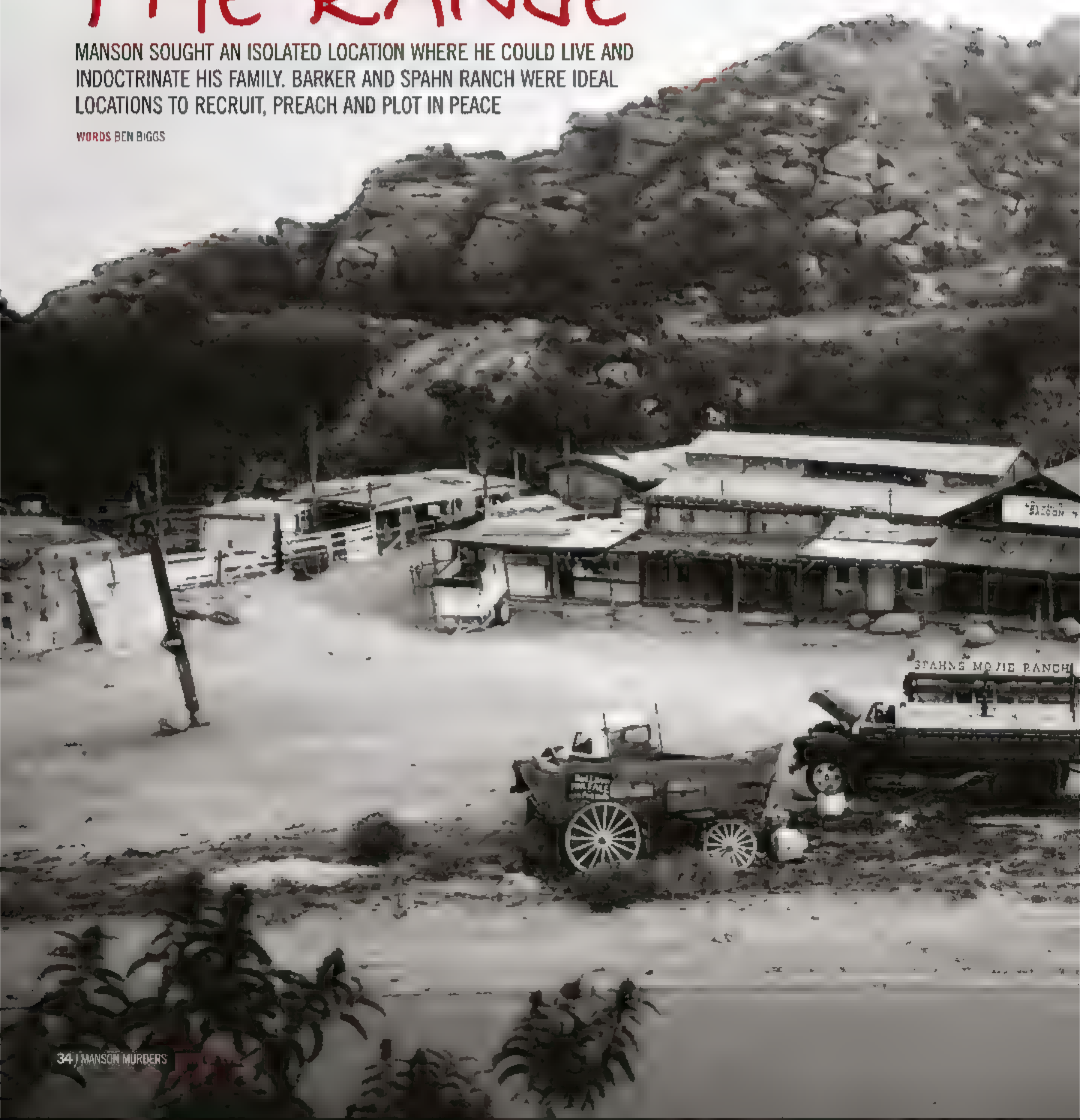
Charles Manson may have started out as a small-time criminal and failed musician but thanks to his loyal entourage, he has become the face of pure evil. Like Rasputin before him, he clearly had mesmeric abilities, capable of preying on the vulnerable and offering them everything they thought they needed. By weakening their moral values through copious amounts of drugs and eroding their true family ties, he created a monstrous Family of deranged relatives. He transported them to the middle of nowhere, a make-believe ranch in the desert, where he was sole ruler and all connection with the real world was lost. It is ironic that they believed they needed him to be truly free, when in fact it was Manson who desperately needed his Family in order to become the icon of wickedness he is considered to be today.

TOP: MICHAEL O'NEILL/GETTY IMAGES; ABOVE: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/REUTERS

HOME ON THE RANGE

MANSON SOUGHT AN ISOLATED LOCATION WHERE HE COULD LIVE AND INDOCTRINATE HIS FAMILY. BARKER AND SPAHN RANCH WERE IDEAL LOCATIONS TO RECRUIT, PREACH AND PLOT IN PEACE

WORDS BEN BIGGS



BELOW
The dilapidated
movie sets on
Spahn Ranch
burned down in a
wildfire shortly after
the family was
arrested in 1970



In 1968, when former Family member Dianne Lake was first driven up to Spahn Ranch in Manson's black bus, her first impression was that it was like "moving through a time warp". Spahn was a movie ranch—that is to say, this 55-acre lot set in craggy rock and mountain scrub on the Los Angeles county border had a ramshackle Western-style town built onto it: a few wooden townhouses with awnings, stables, a barn, a corral, a general store, the obligatory jail, and the centrepiece of any self-respecting cowboy flick: the shabby swing-door Longhorn saloon. On the dusty drive leading to the main drag was an iconic Conestoga wagon missing its canvas cover, all warped wood and patchy attempts at fresh paintwork. It could have simply been a prop transported from another part of the country to promote the movie set, but you could easily imagine it being abandoned by West Coast settlers and left on that exact spot 80 years or more earlier.

The ambitions of the ranch's original owners weren't exactly lofty to begin with: cowboy movies were trending in the post-war years and California was flush with shoots at the time. Lee and Ruth McReynolds wanted a piece of this new gold rush and they were successful in that respect. The set made a good plan B for location scouts who didn't manage to secure a spot at the more popular movie sets nearby, and it sucked up a few television shows and western movies, including some episodes of *Zorro*. It was bought (and renamed) by ageing dairy farmer George Spahn in 1953, but Hollywood was beginning to move on by then. By the time Manson and company rocked up 15 years later, the ranch was making ends meet in the horse-renting business and its 80-year-old owner was going blind. A generous person who didn't know Charles Manson might have suggested that the kooky and charismatic little man was so taken with the set's rustic charm that he immediately wanted to settle there. If he did feel the pang of such sentiment, it played second fiddle to the machinations of this opportunistic freeloader. George Spahn must have seemed weak, and Manson seized upon the chance to settle his entourage onto the property just like he had done so many times at so many sites before that. He told the Family to stay inside while he hopped out of the black bus, pulled on a mask of cocky affability and sauntered up to Spahn.

But as vulnerable as he looked, the old Texan had far more cowboy savvy than he had been given credit for. Manson had to

draw deeply into his reserves of cunning to secure permission for his busload of hippies to stay on Spahn Ranch, in return for certain services that he could provide. A case of quid pro quo: Manson had half a dozen willing young girlfriends in his troupe and Spahn had the appetite of a much younger man. The Family, at this point, was no stranger to this kind of arrangement. In fact, it was a common way for Manson, the patriarch and pimp, to secure them board and lodging. He had a knack for reading people. He could pique curiosity in his mark by turning up with several nubile young women on his arm who had previously been trained to fawn over him. Then, if his silver-tongue and the suggestion of securing sexual favours from any of his Mansonettes didn't persuade them, Manson had an army of loyal, odd-jobbers, ranch hands, cleaners and cooks who would do his bidding without question. Thieves and drug runners, murderers even, as it turned out.

On balance, George Spahn did well out of his deal with the devil. The Family merely took up space in the unused saloon and jail buildings of the movie set, where most of them slept on mattresses, preparing their meals in the kitchen a short way down the boardwalk. Meanwhile, Spahn was both cared for by Lynette Fromme and Dianne Lake and received half a dozen or so able-bodied ranch volunteers. Lynette and Dianne stayed close to the building where George lived, where they made themselves immediately useful by clearing away the years of dust and filth that the decrepit old man had been unable or unwilling to shift himself. They mostly cooked and cleaned for Spahn, and some nights he'd take one of them into his bedroom - usually 'Squeaky' Lynette, who was his favourite.

Outside the owner's house, Manson had to curry favour with one other person to ensure the Family had the run of the place so to speak. Ruby Pearl was a horsewoman, permatanned by her vocation and well weathered by life, who managed the ranch and its employees for George Spahn. She was formidable, and Manson immediately knew not to trifle with her, though he knew exactly how to win her over. He made the Family (the male members, at least) available to Ruby to help with the horses, mucking out the stables, tacking up (equipping horses with saddles, stirrups and equipment), and the less glamorous tasks that come with territory when renting horses out to tourists.

Between household chores, helping out on the ranch and tending to George

Spahn's needs, the Manson Family was gradually adding to its numbers right under the landowner's nose. Within a month of settling into Spahn Ranch, Manson met Beach Boy Dennis Wilson. When that relationship soured after a few months and they were evicted from Wilson's Sunset Boulevard pad, Manson returned with his girls to the ranch and the rest of the Family. Despite this sudden influx of hippies adding to the burgeoning collective, Manson easily ingratiated himself to old man Spahn with his new girl, a minister's daughter called Ruth Ann to whom Spahn took a shine.

The Manson Family had a good thing going and it seemed like they could live this idyllic, harmonious existence alongside the landowner and his ranch employees indefinitely. But Manson, ever itinerant, was looking to drop off the grid altogether. His philosophies were becoming darker and

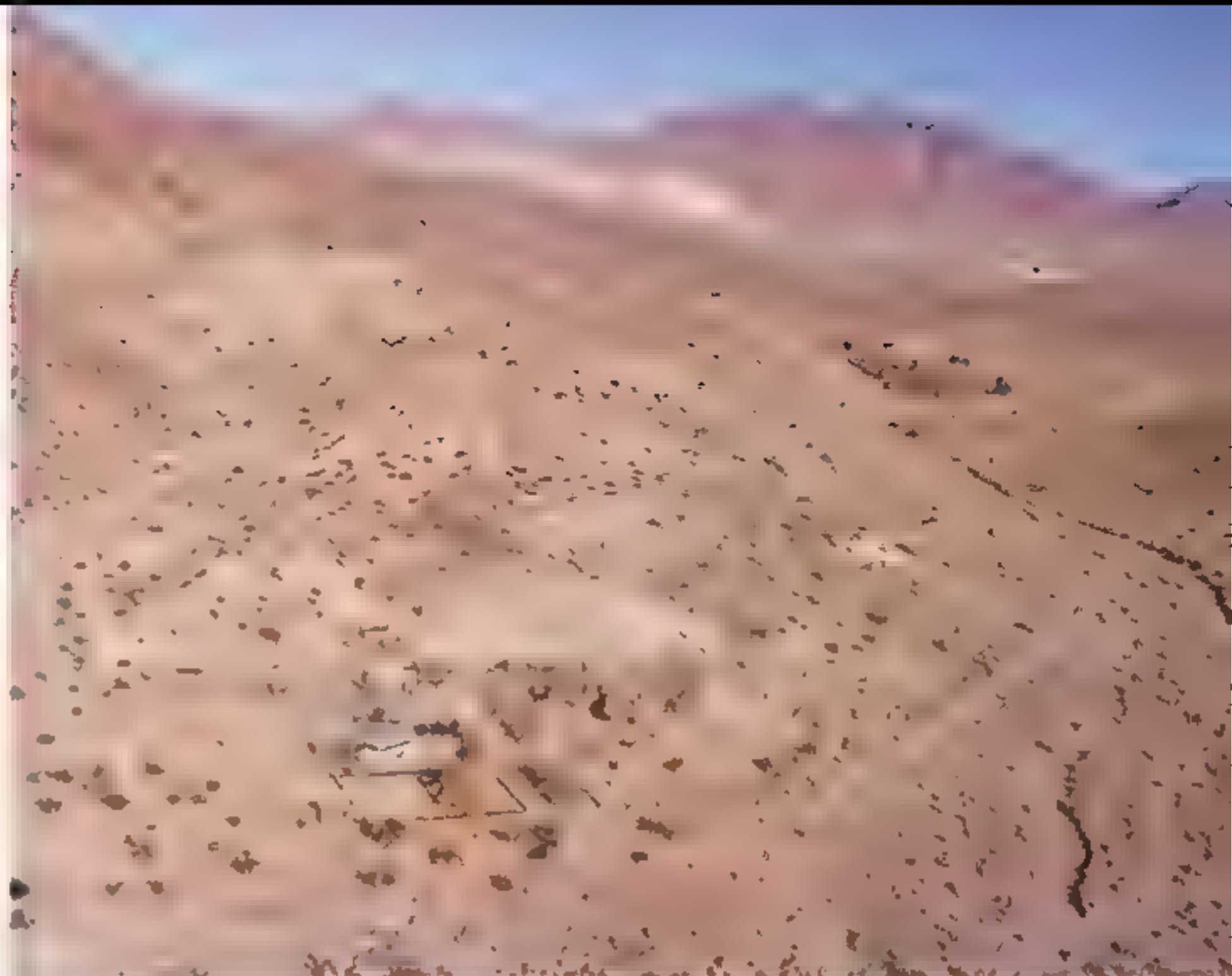
TOP
A recent map of Barker Ranch suggests how remote and desolate the location is still.

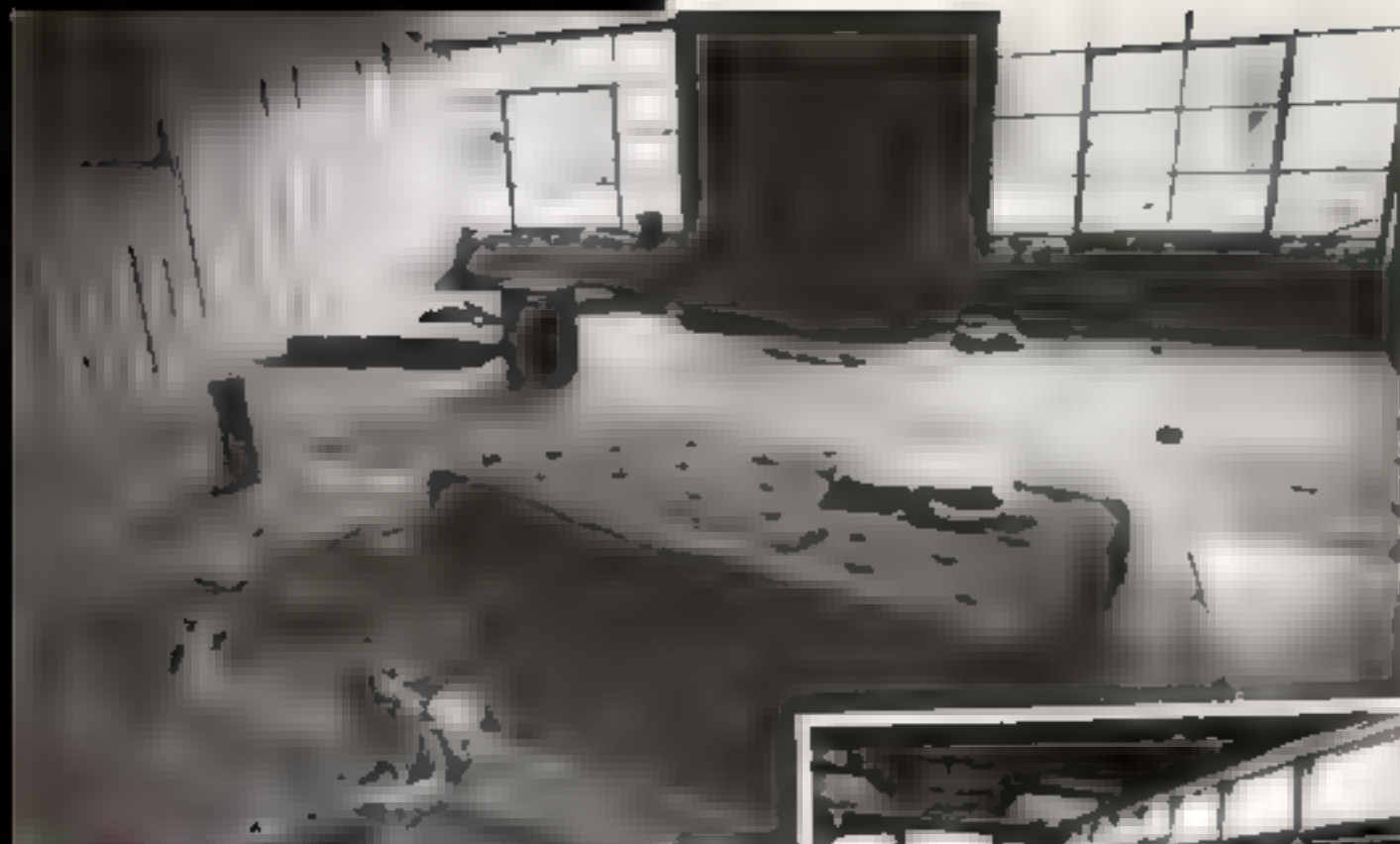
LEFT
Even after a clean up, the kitchen the Family used was in pretty bad shape.

ABOVE RIGHT
Manson had male members of the Family help with Spahn Ranch's horses.

he needed to take the Family somewhere even more remote, somewhere he could safely see his apocalyptic plan for the looming race war through to fruition. Did Manson have murder in mind at this point, less than a year before Tate-LaBianca? His Family knew he had a temper, but he was becoming increasingly violent towards his own flock. In late 1968, Manson learned about Myers Ranch near the eastern border of California state. And while exploring a rocky valley half a mile away in the northern part of the Mojave desert, he discovered Barker Ranch.

Barker was perfect. It was inside Death Valley National Park at the end of Golden Walsh road, where only the most indomitable explorers ventured... or those with something to hide. In the late 1960s, it was so far from any civilisation that it might as well have been on the Moon.





ABOVE The Family would sleep on mattresses in a room like this, where they would trip and have sex with each other

THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

WHAT WAS RANCH LIFE LIKE FOR THE MANSON FAMILY?

The Family was no stranger to drugs, of course. Taking LSD came hand-in-hand with an evening spent preaching, playing the guitar and having sex. An acid tab was akin to the holy sacrament in these pagan folk masses and it didn't really matter where they were, as long as they were somewhere they could philosophise and practise their religion in peace. And before Manson instigated a series of murders that put an end to the age of Aquarius, the liberal attitudes of 1960s California meant a bunch of hippies could set up camp, fry their brains on illicit substances and spread STDs among themselves, yet people still wouldn't bat an eyelid. As long as they were discreet and didn't impinge on the liberties of decent folk who paid their taxes, even the law left them to their own devices.

But Spahn was much more than just a place to hang their hats for a while. The movie set played into their hallucinogenic fantasies, where the Family could dress up and play at being settlers in a 19th century Western dreamland.

Though manipulative and spiteful, with an apparent dark side to his character that was still to truly rear its head, the Family idolised and even loved Manson. They were his disciples, they would follow and do anything for him. The Mansonettes happily gave themselves to him and would willingly sleep with other men when instructed by Manson. His few male members wanted to be Manson. And until the bitter disappointment Manson felt at having his shot at a music career dashed to pieces, the Family was happy.

BOTTOM The Barker Ranch was Manson's final hideout prior to his arrest in 1969

BELOW Barker Ranch was even rougher living than Spahn. Some members of the Family had to bed down in an old school bus



“THE ISOLATION MEANT THAT MANSON COULD PURSUE HIS DODGY DEALS”

Arlene Barker owned the place, but she was living more comfortably in Indian Springs and had no intention of returning to this bolt hole in the dust and heat. The buildings were in better shape than Myers Ranch too, so Manson met with Barker, laid the charm on thick and gave her a gold record he'd acquired during his stay with Dennis Wilson. That sealed the deal. The Family upped-sticks and moved into one of the most inhospitable places on the planet.

The isolation meant that Manson could pursue his dodgy deals with a biker gang called the Straight Satans that he'd been rubbing shoulders with at Spahn Ranch. All-terrain vehicles were stolen and dropped off at Barker, which the Family used for sorties into the desert, while a dubious biker of some standing in the gang, Danny DeCarlo, helped Manson begin to stockpile weapons. The Family had changed since the relatively innocent times when they toured California in the black bus, when they lived hand-to-mouth and relied on their messiah to provide. Manson shunned some of his original Family members, leaving them to take care of Barker Ranch and on the periphery of his trust. Meanwhile, he drew his newer and shadier members closer to his bosom, sharing his plans and sending them on secret missions, in preparation for his awful endgame.





20 hours inside Manson's mind

WITH A CHARACTER AS BRAZEN AS MANSON'S, MANY HAVE BEEN DESPERATE TO UNDERSTAND HIS PSYCHE. SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SIT FACE-TO-FACE WITH ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS KILLERS?

WORDS JAMAL MATTHEWS

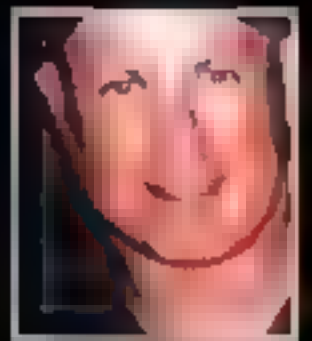
Throughout the latter months of 1969, Hollywood newspapers bore sensational headlines, which described a city reeling in terror from a madman trawling its affluent neighbourhoods intent on 'ritual slaughter'. First there had been the mass murder of five people on Cielo Drive on 8 August, including the pregnant wife of film director Roman Polanski, closely followed by the slaying of Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, on Waverly Drive the following evening, 9 August. When a group of travelling hippies, men and women such as Tex Watson, Susan Atkins and Leslie Van Houten were arrested in October for unrelated charges, and finally linked to the murders in December, confusion ensued. This group of waifs and strays was not what detectives had anticipated when they were confronted by the gory murder scenes at the Los Angeles homes. Heading up that group was their namesake, Charles Manson, a scruffy-looking street-urchin no taller than five-foot two-inches. Identified as the individual orchestrating such chaos, there have since been few individuals who have evoked such intrigue, such horror, and such mystery as the dishevelled Manson Family patriarch.

Even after his death in 2016, at the age of 83, Manson's mind has fascinated experts and the public alike. What makes a cult leader like Manson tick? How did

he warp the minds of men and women, some of whom came from seemingly stable backgrounds, to kill at his behest? Underneath the big personality, was Manson really just a small boy, desperate to be loved? What could possibly be gleaned from coming face-to-face with the man himself? We asked Dr Paul Dawson, a New York-based psychiatrist who spent time with Manson inside the walls of San Quentin prison to talk about his conversations with one of the world's most famous killers.

THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW

Following Manson's sensational trial, which saw him convicted of seven counts of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder, the 37-year-old retired to his cell, sentenced to die in the gas chamber. However, within a year his sentence was one of many commuted to life in prison without the possibility of parole, after California invalidated the state's death penalty statute. With Manson behind bars in the maximum security prison San Quentin, secured there for the rest of his natural life, came the opportunity for journalists, psychiatrists and psychologists to attempt to make sense of Manson's mind. In the media, the cult leader was described as 'evil', compared to the devil, and deemed an



DOCTOR
US psychiatrist Dr Paul Dawson developed a new psychotherapy method known as the InterSelf Test, using Manson as a test subject for its development

WHAT IS A PSYCHOPATH?

PSYCHOPATHS AND THE TERM 'PSYCHOPATHY' ARE OFTEN VERY MISUNDERSTOOD WHEN IT COMES TO SERIAL KILLERS, SO WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES MANSON MEASURE UP?

The measure for psychopathy also known as the 'Psychopathy Checklist Revised' (PCL-R), was developed by Robert Hare and his colleagues and lists a number of characteristics of psychopaths including:

WEIRDNESS

A lack of empathy is very high on the PCL list and is one of the most glaring qualities of a psychopath. Manson showed a sincere lack of empathy for the nine murders he orchestrated and declines to admit that he feels any guilt over the brutal killing of innocent people. Instead he argues that the treatment he received in prison was just as bad as any crime he had committed.

SHALLOW EMOTIONS

Psychopaths are devoid of emotions such as shame, guilt and embarrassment. The PCL describes psychopaths as "emotionally shallow" and showing a lack of guilt. When interviewed, Manson is brazen and unashamed of the actions linked to him and instead is incredibly glib in front of those who have interviewed him.

IRRESPONSIBILITY

The first psychologist to develop a detailed list of characteristics shown by psychopaths, Hervey Cleckley, said that psychopaths show unreliability, while the PCL mentions "irresponsibility". Psychopaths are also known to blame others for events that are actually their fault. Manson blamed everyone else for the murders, from the Manson Family to his lack of a stable childhood.

INSINCERE SPEECH

The PCL defines insincere speech as "glibness" and "superficial charm", while Cleckley defines it as "untruthfulness" and "insincerity" and "pathological lying". Indeed, Manson was all of these things in many of his interviews, often refusing to answer any question with a straight answer.

OVERCONFIDENCE

The PCL describes psychopaths as possessing what is described as "grandiose sense of self-worth". While Manson claimed that he "wasn't a leader", he claimed he was much smarter than most. Manson's ideologies about the media and mainstream culture were incredibly narrow and he often ridiculed journalists about their profession.



archetypal psychopath. Indeed Manson's reaction to his conviction was positively devoid of any remorse or empathy, a common quality many psychopaths display. Over time, dozens, if not hundreds, of books have referenced Manson's crimes and the family he controlled with a toxic combination of love, sex, LSD and music. None of which record that Manson had ever shown an ounce of remorse for the murders he orchestrated.

The same can be said for the handful of prison house interviews Manson has given to the media. Each and every time his personality brims over before the camera as a gibbering madman with ideals far surpassing those of any rational person. More than 20 years after the Tate-LaBianca murders, *Today* journalist Heidi Schuman enquired as to Manson's guilt regarding the bloodshed he commanded. Almost immediately Manson erupted, telling her: "There's no need to feel guilty. I haven't

ABOVE

Full leader and convicted killer Charles Manson was clearly a troubled individual but what made him so harmful to his followers and the public desperate to understand him?

OPPOSITE PAGE

BOTTOM RIGHT Manson's unstable childhood led to a number of early run-ins with the law

done anything I'm ashamed of." His words are followed by a smirk. Between incoherent ramblings and musings over his own incompetency, Manson claims, "If I started murdering people, there'd be none of you left."

Away from the cameras it is easy to wonder if Manson was much more subdued – was he simply acting out for the camera's sake? Did he put on a performance when he knew he had a captivated audience? Could there be more to Manson on a one-to-one basis? To talk us through Manson's psychology, we contacted Dr Paul Dawson, a New York-based forensic psychologist who interviewed Manson in 1988 as part of a research study he was undertaking as

“IF I STARTED MURDERING PEOPLE, THERE'D BE NONE OF YOU LEFT”



killers and psychopaths, Dr Dawson has since published three books about Manson and the Manson Family: *Charles Manson Confidential: My Charles Manson Prison Interviews & Manson's Psychological Diagnosis*, *Charles Manson's Girls: Based On My Charles Manson Prison Interviews & Psychological Assessment*, and *Manson Family Manual: Living Dangerously with Charles Manson* as well as more than 60 other titles.

Describing the first time he came face-to-face with Manson in 1988, Dr Dawson recalls how the 53-year-old cult leader arrived late to their first appointment. Dressed in prison-issued clothing, inside a small interview room, Dr Dawson recalls how Manson's demure frame was far overshadowed by the prison guards entrusted with chaperoning one of their most infamous prisoners. Dr Dawson recalled how Manson's hair, which would ironically change throughout his trial, was medium length at the time of their first encounter. "Charles looked older than his age and more peculiar than in his photos," Dr Dawson told us. "He had a short, stubby beard. His face was wizened, wrinkled, and haggard and, at times, he flashed a skullish grin. He came across like a small, gaunt, slender, withered elf or goblin from a fairy nightmare."

According to Dr Dawson, "he was late for our appointment because he'd been held in 'the hole' [administrative segregation - punishment cell] where he was being punished for some infraction, having broken some prison rules." Sitting down with Manson was always set to be a challenge as Dr Dawson peeled back the layers on Manson's psyche.



part of his role as a chief psychologist of a state prison system. Out of respect for his patients and to ensure his own safety, Dr Dawson declined to name which prison system he was working for at the time.

"Mostly, I was doing crisis intervention, traveling from maximum security men's prisons to women's prisons and correctional institutions for youth," said Dr Dawson. "Crisis intervention, for example, included frequently being called to various prisons 24/7 when inmates were experiencing psychotic breakdowns. So, I'd be called to come to a prison at, say, 3am in the morning because an inmate was in the midst of a psychotic breakdown or perhaps crashing off drugs and alcohol and out of control. For instance, I would normally take a nurse and four or five prison guards with me. We might go down to 'the hole' or administrative segregation to a punishment cell, where an inmate was having a psychotic breakdown - often the man or

ABOVE Although Manson follower Robert Kenneth Bradshaw was convicted of the murder of musician Gary Hinman, Dr Paul Dawson claims that Manson was much more involved in the crime than he initially felt on.

TOP In interviews with Dr Paul Dawson, Manson was keen to deny the existence of the Manson Family, and during some discussions went to great lengths to discredit his family.

woman would be screaming, growing violent. I'd order the prison guards to handcuff and shackle the inmate. I'd order the nurse to give shots of either a sedative or tranquilizer or antipsychotic drug. Then we'd escort or carry the inmate on a stretcher to the infirmary. I'd follow-up the next day and see how they were doing."

Meeting Manson, however, was not part of Dr Dawson's day-to-day responsibilities, but rather due to the development of a new method of psychotherapy. "I was doing research on psychopaths, convicted murderers and serial killers," Dr Dawson told us. "I was researching the use of my own personality and self-concept test. The Interself Test, which I created and developed." According to Dr Dawson, the test has also been conducted on the likes of serial female slayer Ted Bundy and Canada's most infamous female serial killer Karla Homolka. A well-published author experienced in interviewing serial

THE MANSON MYSTIQUE

In his book *Mindhunter* FBI profiler John E. Douglas discussed his own interview with Manson in the aftermath of the Tate-LaBianca murders and the circus that was his trial. "Everybody in law enforcement was interested in Manson. It has been ten years since the grisly Tate and LaBianca murders in Los Angeles and Manson remained the most famous and feared convict in the world," words which highlight Manson's status as a prisoner and the hypnotising effect he had on people even after his days as the head of the notorious Manson Family were over.

So when sitting down with someone as volatile as Manson it can be hard to know where to start. Many a time when Manson

“MANSON USED HIS DYSFUNCTIONAL CHILDHOOD AS AN EXCUSE”

gave an interview he was asked about his childhood, the place where his warped mindset began to take shape. As a boy who grew up without a stable unit - both his father and mother were absent from his life - Manson's childhood was clearly a bone of contention for him. Dr Dawson's theory is that "Manson's childhood was an obvious weak point for him," but that it was simply an excuse that he used for sympathy and to distance himself from the responsibility of his crimes. "Manson used his dysfunctional childhood as an excuse to commit crimes and as a rationalisation for his criminal lifestyle and serial murders," said Dr Dawson. "Manson said that he was a victim because he had no parents, no education and no money. He even claimed that he was not the leader of the Manson Family. He was a follower. And further, that since he was not at the murder scenes while his cult killers were committing murders Manson ordered that he was not responsible."

Dr Dawson claims that when confronted with questions about his Family and his influence over his followers, Manson was again reluctant to admit that he had been anything other than a scapegoat for the murders and attempted to diminish his influence over those who had literally killed for him. "Manson denied that there was any Manson Family," Dr Dawson explained. "He claimed he was not the leader of a cult and not responsible for any murders. He referred to his Manson Family members

as 'friends' at times and at other times had some very negative things to say about them." Paradoxical about his feelings over the men and women who had pledged their allegiance to him, one thing is for certain, despite their obvious involvement in the murders, Manson remained determined to be unattached to the crimes. "He blamed them for the murders," said Dr Dawson.

Manson was often the first to admit he was incompetent when he was interviewed. Small in stature, lacking in education and clearly an outcast in society, it can often lead to the question: How did someone like Manson command the respect and following of a cult? Dr Dawson theorises that this was something that developed over time. "My theory of Charles Manson's development into a cult leader/serial killer includes several factors. First, Manson was a hardcore criminal who had a lot of experience as a pimp exploiting women," he told us, in reference to the list of crimes Manson had racked up before he became linked to the murder of nine people, including car theft, armed robbery, petty larceny and burglary. "He picked up tips and insights on conning, exploiting people while he was in prison. He also learned to play guitar and wrote songs. He read books on controlling people including New Age books, pop psychology and other books."

Other suggestions have been made by Manson's Family and other experts that a constant wave of drugs like LSD and marijuana was also responsible for the hold Manson had on his followers, sentiments echoed by Dr Dawson based on his understanding of the dynamics of the Manson Family. According to Dr Dawson, Manson "came across as a messiah or authority and father figure to middle-class and college-educated kids who were often estranged or alienated from their parents and families." Noticing the gaping void in the lost souls he accumulated throughout California, "Manson stroked the egos of young people who often were damaged by abusive parents. Or the kids had an identity crisis because their families neglected them or had kicked them out because of drugs and alcohol abuse. Manson gave them a vision of transforming their lives." But the reality couldn't have been more different. "Manson, a sinister psychopathic killer," Dr Dawson said, further adding that Manson "initially conned his Manson Family by promising his followers sexual paradise and druggie dreamland. He told his hippie gang they were superior to others because they'd pull off 'Heiter Skelter' - a race war which would lead to Shangri-La run by

RIGHT

Manson granted *Teen* magazine's first Tom Snyder interview in 1981 in which he stuck to his usual routine of blaming everyone else for the murders, refusing to take any responsibility for the crimes committed.

FAR RIGHT

For the first and a half decades Manson spent behind bars. Tally tried to understand him, with many diagnosing Manson as a psychopath.



RIGHT

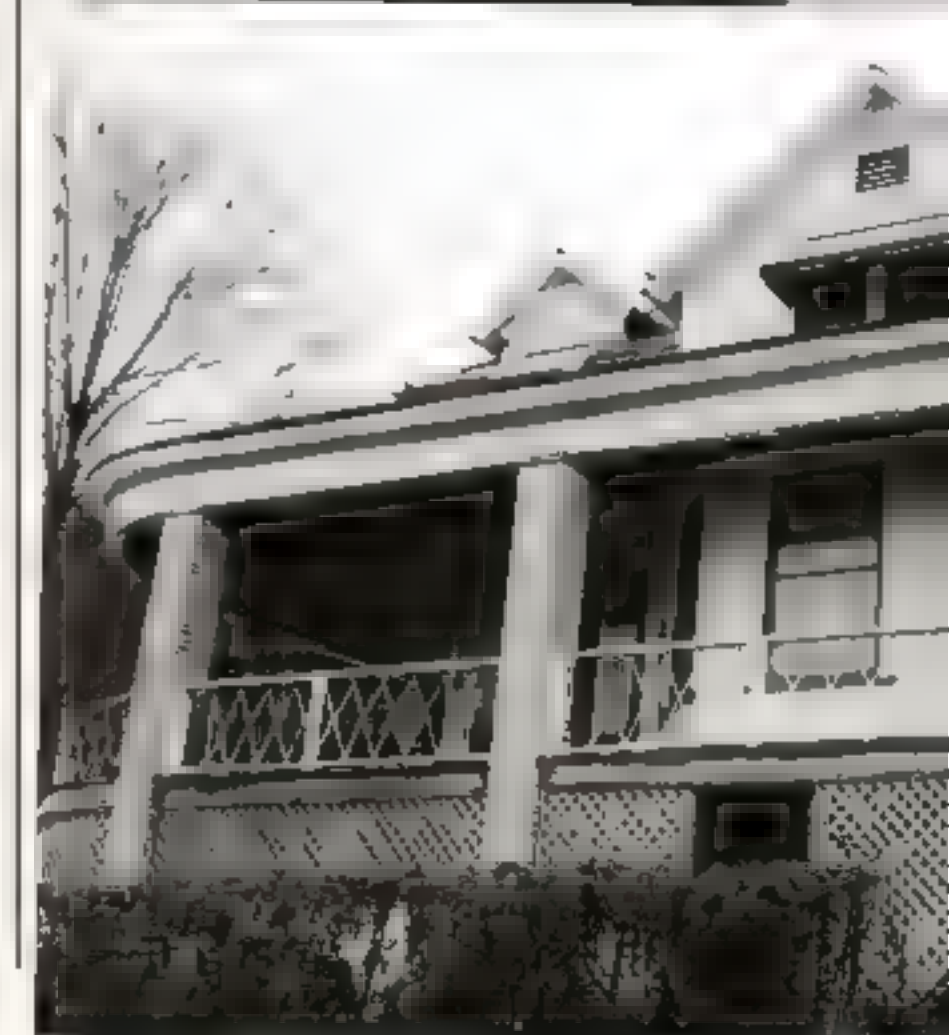
The dysfunctional home where cult leader Manson grew up in McMecher, West Virginia was the starting point for his warped mind.

MIDDLE

According to Dr Dawson, Manson could have been a famous musician but his psychopathic ways prevented him from establishing a successful career.

LEFT

Following several unsuccessful bids for freedom, Manson stopped appearing at parole hearings, refusing to show remorse for his crimes.





A CULT ABOVE THE REST

WHAT METHODS AND CHARACTERISTICS DID MANSON SHARE WITH OTHER INFAMOUS CULT LEADERS/KILLERS?

DAVID KORESH

Leader of the Branch Davidians sect, Koresh believed himself to be its final prophet. Like Manson, Koresh came from a dysfunctional family background, having been abandoned by his father and living out his childhood with his mother, an alcoholic. In 1983, Koresh began claiming the gift of prophecy. Unlike Manson, who had turned away from a religious background, Koresh had taken his religious beliefs to drive him forward in commanding his cult.

MARSHALL HERFF APPLEWHITE

As a youth, Applewhite was moderately religious and a promising student. However, after his father's death in 1971, Applewhite suffered with severe depression. Like Manson, who was influenced by music, Applewhite moved to New York in an unsuccessful attempt to launch a professional singing career after he finished his education in Colorado. After he struck up a relationship with Bonnie Nettles, a nurse with an interest in theosophy and Biblical prophecy, Applewhite is believed to have suffered a schizophrenic episode, lending a hand to his esoteric views and leadership skills.

JIM JONES

One of the most sinister cult leaders of all, Jim Jones – the founder and leader of the Peoples Temple cult, which he began in Indiana during the 1950s – led the biggest mass suicide in history when a total of 918 people died in Georgetown, Guyana. Like Manson, Jones was charismatic and was adored by his followers. Jones was well-known for his selflessness and generosity. Unlike Manson, he was deeply religious and was able to recite scripture and the Bible inside out, which hugely impressed his congregation.



ABOVE

Manson gave the last and perhaps most memorable interview to journalist Diane Sawyer in 1969 in which he bragged about the wives he'd killed for his life in prison.

LEFT

The psychology behind cult leaders is incredibly complex, but what did leaders such as Jim Jones and Manson all have in common to ensure such loyalty?

the Manson Family. Then Manson and his Family would rule the world."

Dr Dawson further explains in his book *Manson Family Manual: Living Dangerously with Charles Manson* how Manson turned on the charm offensive to manipulate people into going along with his race war. Although Charles Manson was a criminal, psychopath, he was able to turn on some charm, play guitar and sing songs he wrote to entertain his followers and recruit new Manson Family members.

In front of the cameras, Manson came across as excited ramblings and charismatic quips meant there was never a dull moment when he was interviewed. For years following his incarceration, Manson's persona had played out in front of cameras who had lapped up his skittish rambles both inside and outside of the courtroom. But was this all a persona or an act? Supposedly not, according to Dr Dawson who claims, Charles Manson's volatility or 'psycho' level or gibberish level varied depending on how insecure he was at the particular moment, adding that at times Manson would seem to be off in outer space on a crazy rant, raving about how he was the true victim.

Indeed, Manson was not the victim he portrayed although he was adamant that he was innocent. Much of the mystery around Manson surrounds whether he led anyone by his own hand. Douglas is not convinced that Manson ever led anyone but simply lost control of his Family and that had he ever been released, he would simply skulk off into the desert to live out his life. However, according to Dr Dawson while it is true that it was reported that he did not actually kill anybody in the Tate-LaBianca murders (although he ordered the murders, which is the same thing) Manson participated in physically injuring and killing Gary Hinman, Donald 'Shorty' Shea and was reported to have shot or stabbed or ordered the murder of a number of others. Dr Dawson also claims that Manson shot Bernard Crowe, as well as assaulted the Manson women in his Family, claims that have been substantiated by members over time as they themselves have revealed their stories about belonging to one of the most famous criminal clans in the world.

DIAGNOSING MANSON

After 20 hours spent conversing with the cult leader for his research, Dr Dawson



or claim that he is a victim of society and the prison system."

Indeed, the only change in Manson's mindset in his 2012 statement was that he admitted to the public he had been responsible for the death of his victims, but only as a means of bragging about his importance and power. Such comments led to the question: Is a psychopath like Manson born bad or made bad? The everlasting argument of 'nature or nurture' Dr Dawson would argue the former. "I would theorize that Charles Manson was born with a neurological predisposition to psychopathy. His mother may have had PBCs - pregnancy and birth complications when giving birth to Charles Manson, which is commonly linked with psychopaths."

It is obvious that Manson's mind, while similar to many psychopaths who came before him and those who will come after him, had innate qualities that made him unique as a person. According to Dr Dawson, Manson had at least one misunderstood quality about his persona. "I think the most misunderstood aspect of Charles Manson was that he had a kind of diamond-in-the-rough musical talent," Dr Dawson revealed. "However, because Charles Manson was an unstable psychopath, hardcore criminal and lacked discipline, these negatives interfered with his development as a musician," concluded Dr Dawson.

Such comments are similarly echoed in Dr Dawson's book *Manson Family Manual: Living Dangerously with Charles Manson* in which he goes on to explain "Manson's weird ranting and raving about the Beatles' *Helter Skelter* like some paranoid grandiose maniac eliminated his potential success. And the Manson Family revenge murders topped-off Manson's demise."

Even up until his dying days, Manson was feared as a cult leader, however many who interviewed him found him to be rather unremarkable, and behind bars there was no evidence that he became a leader of any sort. It seems as though the spell surrounding him had been broken with the demise of the Manson Family. While many still find him intriguing, the world has simply moved on, although the scar it bears from the horrific crimes he orchestrated will forever remain, just as it did thanks to the Moors Murderers Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, as well as Fred and Rose West of Cromwell Street, and the fear of seemingly innocent strangers indoctrinated by master manipulator Ted Bundy. Some crimes are simply too horrific to comprehend and too gruesome to forget.

had enough material to determine the mindset of one of the most dangerous criminals of the 20th century. "I diagnosed Charles Manson as a hardcore psychopath," he told us. A hardcore psychopath? How exactly would this compare to a regular psychopath, we enquired. "This is the hardcore version of antisocial personality disorder," Dr Dawson summarised.

Following on from his time with Dr Dawson, Manson gave a handful of interviews and made several television appearances while behind bars, his last being with reporter Diane Sawyer in 1994, none of which highlighted any change in his mindset or his psychopathic ways. After 1994 he refused to give another network-television interview. Perhaps in direct correlation to that decision, Manson's chances of parole were also seemingly nonexistent and he stopped appearing at parole hearings after he was denied parole in 1997. In the hearings that followed, parole boards denied him any leniency or mercy due to the fact that he had refused to appear remorseful for his crimes.

In 2012, in what was his last parole hearing before he died, California Board of Parole Hearings Commissioner John Peck

said that Manson has accumulated 108 serious disciplinary violations in prison since 1971. Peck also read aloud Manson's statement to a psychologist in a prison interview in November 2011, in which Manson's psychopathic tendencies showed no evidence of diminishing as his feelings of superiority and grandiosity continued to remain strong. "I am special. I am not like the average inmate. I have put five people in the grave. I've been in prison most of my life. I'm a very dangerous man," Manson had raved in his interview.

According to Dr Dawson these statements are typical of Manson's ideals as a victim and not the villain and his psychopathic ways. "Manson, until his death in 2017, showed no remorse or regret for the murders he was convicted of committing or his other crimes," said Dr Dawson. "If you listen to his comments at parole hearings and interviews, he tends to ramble on with either irrelevant nonsense

ABOVE
Home to the US's most infamous criminals, San Quentin Prison housed Manson for more than four decades after he was convicted.

**“SOME CRIMES ARE
SIMPLY TOO HORRIFIC TO
COMPREHEND”**



PATH TO INFAMY

- 48-51. Bad vibrations
- 52-57. All you need is blood
- 58-61. Coming down fast
- 62-65. Before the 'Carnival of Terrors'
- 66-75. Two nights of horror
- 76-83. The People vs Charles Manson Part 1: Puppet master
- 84-89. When good girls go bad
- 90-97. The People vs Charles Manson Part 2: Turning point
- 98-99. Cheating the chamber
- 100-107. Interview: My escape from the Manson Family

BAD VIBRATIONS

THE BEACH BOYS, DORIS DAY'S SON, AND HISTORY'S MOST NOTORIOUS CULT MURDERER

WORDS GREG KING



In the summer of 1968, Manson met two men who would become deeply involved with the Family over the next year and inadvertently play a part in the tragedy that would soon unfold. The first was Dennis Wilson, drummer of the rock group The Beach Boys. The second, Terry Melcher, would play an even greater and - for Sharon Tate - ultimately fatal role in Manson's life.

Wilson had just gone through a divorce and, enjoying his freedom, frequently picked up hitchhikers while driving in Los Angeles and taking them back to his

Sunset Boulevard estate to share drugs and have sex. One day, he offered a ride to two females, Manson Family members Ella Bailey and Patricia Krenwinkel; they seemed unimpressed that Wilson was a member of the celebrated group, and instead spent their time telling him about a wonderful and talented man they knew named Charlie. Wilson left them at his house while he attended a recording session. When he returned at 3am, he saw a black-painted school bus parked in his driveway. His living room was crowded

with a dozen or more scantily clad women, in the middle of the group was Charles Manson. Frightened, Wilson asked, "Are you going to hurt me?" But Manson dropped to his knees and began kissing Wilson's feet to demonstrate his humbleness. Wilson was impressed, and allowed Manson and his Family to stay with him for several months.

During these months Wilson and Manson discussed song-writing and sang duets, while the female members of the Family kept house and provided the drummer with frequent sex. He soon learned that most of them had several venereal diseases, and took them all to his Beverly Hills doctor for penicillin shots - "probably the largest gonorrhea bill in history," he later said. The Family appropriated anything and everything they wanted. Manson continually asked for money to pay off creditors, to buy new musical instruments, to pay for studio time and to buy drugs. Most of Wilson's clothes disappeared, worn by the family or simply given away by them to people they met on the streets. They raced and wrecked Wilson's uninsured \$21,000 Ferrari. Wilson paid for Susan Atkins' teeth to be fixed, and even gave Manson a number of gold records that had been awarded to him as a member of The Beach Boys, which were promptly pawned for cash.

Wilson endured all of this because he found Manson fascinating, and thought that, with discipline, he might be turned into a recording artist. In the summer of 1968, Wilson arranged for Manson to record some demo tracks at his brother Brian Wilson's house in Bel Air. Shortly after,

ABOVE

The Beach Boys pictured in 1967. Dennis Wilson is at the far right.

RIGHT

Dennis Wilson during a visit to London in December 1967.



MANSON THE SONGWRITER

MANSON FOUND NO SUCCESS IN THE RECORDING INDUSTRY, BUT HE WAS FAR FROM THE TALENTLESS AMATEUR HE WAS OFTEN PORTRAYED

It was Manson's misfortune that his attempts to land a recording contract came in the late-1960s. His style of music was more folk than psychedelic, a throwback to the first years of his music rather than the drug-inspired lyrics and sounds that greeted him on his release from prison. Dennis Wilson later insisted that "Charlie didn't have a musical bone in his whole body," ignoring his attempts to land Manson a recording deal. "He sounded like a young Frankie Lane and was really quite good," said music producer and acquaintance Phil Kaufman. And singer Neil Young, who met Manson before the murders, recalled: "He had this kind of music that nobody else was doing. I thought he really had something crazy, something great. He was like a living poet." There is no doubt that Manson could sing, and some of his compositions are rather engaging, though they are inevitably infused with his cynical view of the world and relationships. The main problem he faced was discipline: Manson simply could not understand the need to rehearse, to act professionally in a recording studio, or to listen to the views of engineers or other musicians to hone his skills. Manson thought he could simply show up in a studio and jam. He once explained: "I never really dug recording, you know, all those things pointing at you. You get into the studio, and it's hard to sing into microphones. My relationship to music is completely subliminal, it just flows through me." As a result, he could never successfully channel his energies towards a professional product.

Wilson introduced Manson to Doris Day's son Terry Melcher, a record producer at Columbia who had just worked with the groups The Byrds and Paul Revere and the Raiders. Melcher agreed to arrange some studio time for Manson, and asked his associate Gregg Jakobson to work out the details. On 9 August 1968—exactly one year before Sharon Tate was murdered—Jakobson joined Manson and some of his followers in a Van Nuys studio where they recorded some additional demo tapes.

By this time, though, Wilson—while he remained essential to Manson's music and lyrics—had grown tired of supporting his ragtag group of followers. He moved out of his house and into a small apartment with Gregg Jakobson, and had his business manager evict Manson and his family from the Sunset Boulevard estate.

Wilson later estimated that he ended up losing about \$100,000 worth of his money and belongings to the Manson family. After the murders, he said, "I'm the luckiest guy in the world because I got off on ly losing my money."

In the autumn of 1968, Manson sold The Beach Boys one of his songs, called *Cease to Exist*. Manson had written it as a metaphor for the sort of relationship he valued—the complete submission of will to his own. But The Beach Boys committed what, in Manson's eyes, was a cardinal sin. The words in the chorus, "Cease to Exist," were changed to "Cease to resist," giving the song a vaguely sexual connotation. They changed the title, too, calling the song *Never Learn Not to Love*. As eventually recorded with the typical Beach Boys harmonies and back-up instrumental, the song was a far cry from what Manson had written. The group put it on their 20/20 album, and eventually released it as a B-side to another single, *Bluebirds over the Mountain*, on 8 December 1968. The single reached #61 on the Billboard charts, in

BELOW

Scott Rife's right, about six months before it was buried in the ground

BELOW LEFT

The Beach Boys single *Never Learn Not to Love*, which was originally Charles Manson's *Cease to Exist*

“WILSON AND MANSON DISCUSSED SONG-WRITING AND SANG DUETS”



payment Manson received an unspecified amount of cash and a BSA motorcycle, but no song-writing credit.

Throughout these months Melcher maintained an uneasy relationship with Manson. He wasn't nearly as impressed with his perceived talents as Wilson had been, and he found it impossible to impose any kind of order on the recording sessions. But he said nothing at the time. He lent Manson Family member Charles "Tex" Watson his Jaguar, which the latter collected from Melcher's estate at 10050 Cielo Drive; Manson, too, visited the property, sitting in the back seat of a car when Dennis Wilson drove Melcher home. Watson would return to the house several times, once asking Melcher for bail money after Jakobson was arrested; on this occasion, Melcher's then-girlfriend, actress Candice Bergen, found a

grimy Watson sitting in her kitchen and was unhappy that he'd been let into the house.

Manson cemented another tie to the Cielo property when he met the estate's owner, Rudi Autobelli, at a party given by Dennis Wilson. Autobelli was a major talent agent in Los Angeles and, Manson reasoned, was in a position to make him a star. Autobelli agreed to listen to one of the demo tapes Manson had recorded, but he was not interested in his stream-of-consciousness philosophizing and dismissed his talk about love and peace and life.

In April 1969, Wilson and Melcher arranged for Manson to record several more tracks in a studio in Santa Monica. He brought Family members Robert Beausoleil and Charles Watson, along with some of his female followers, to provide backing

vocals; Dennis Wilson even joined in. Manson now had a collection of a dozen songs, some were still in rough stages, but it was enough raw material for an album. Manson's

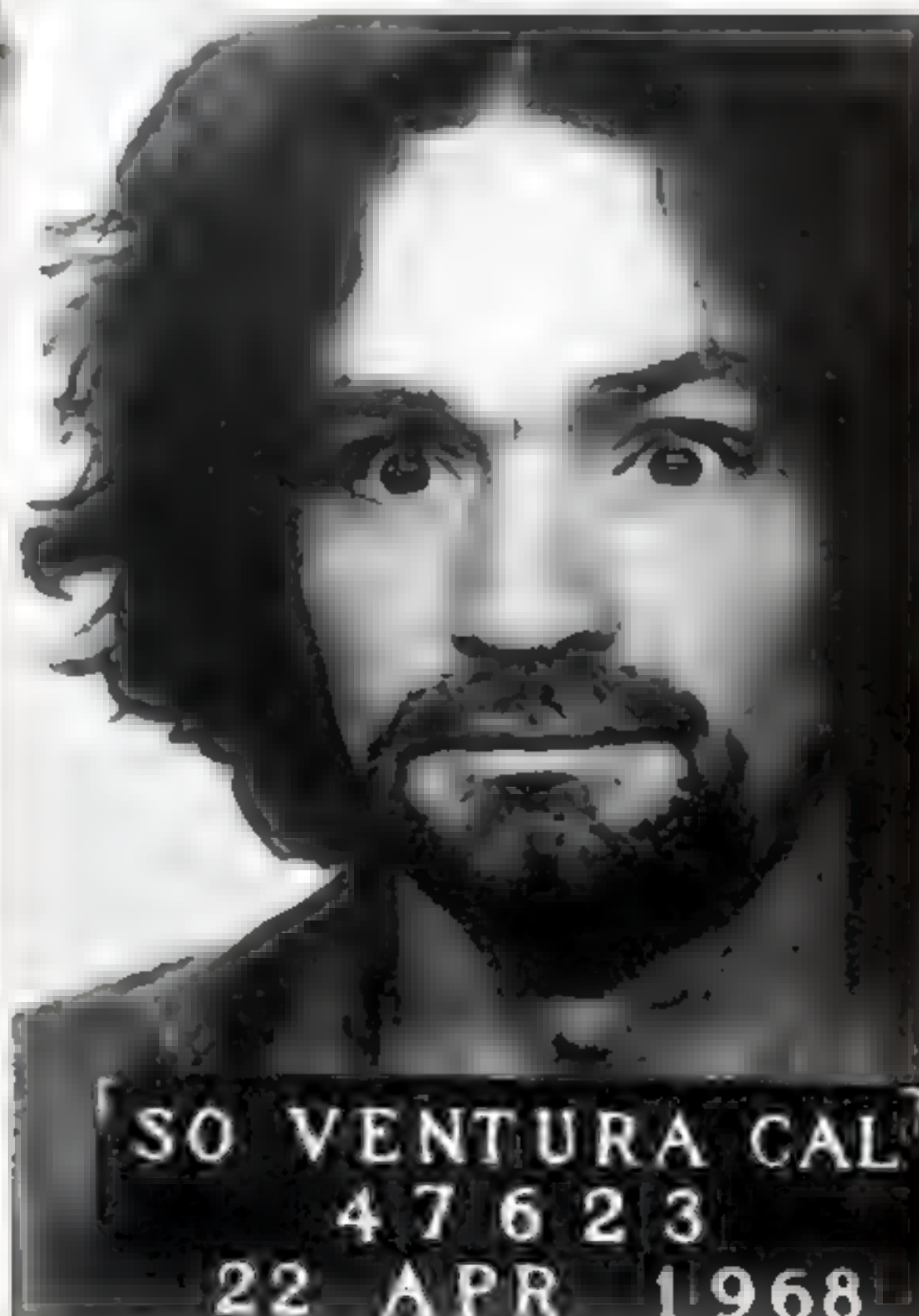
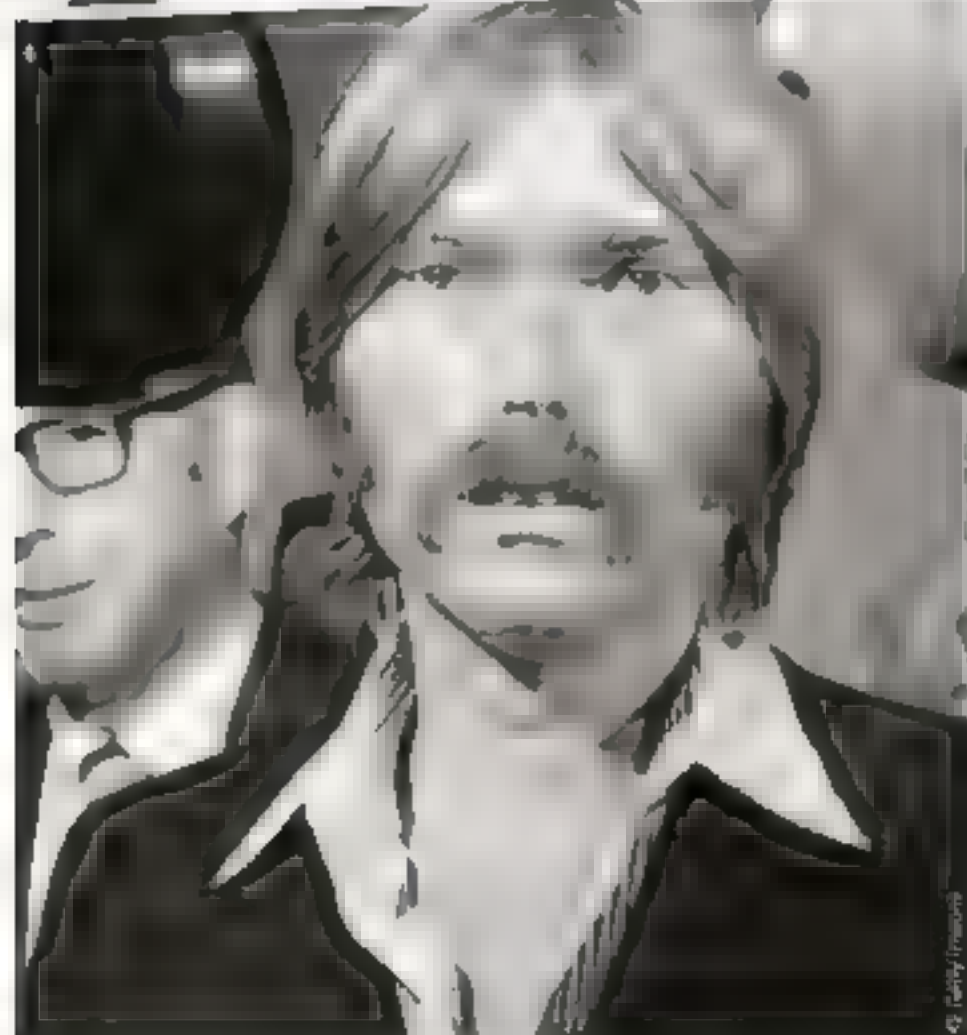


ABOVE
The Beach Boys
pictured in 1964.
Dennis Wilson is at
the far right.

LEFT
Charles Manson
around the time he
first met drummer
Dennis Wilson.

INSET LEFT
The Beach Boys
clockwise from left:
Al Jardine, Mike
Love, Brian Wilson,
and Wilson, and
Dennis Wilson.

BOTTOM LEFT
Terry Melcher
during the Los
Angeles County
Grand Jury hearings
into the Tate-
LaBianca murders,
December 1969.





only desire all along. Wilson and Melcher both seemed sympathetic. Wilson even mentioned Manson in an interview he gave to British music magazine *Rave*, calling him "The Wizard" and saying that The Beach Boys would be producing and releasing his first album after that year on their own record label, Brothers Records.

On 18 May 1969, Melcher drove out to Spahn Ranch to meet with Manson. Manson gave him a guided tour of the ranch in a dune buggy before settling down to perform. "After hearing them sing a dozen or so songs," Melcher later said, "I may have singled out one and said, 'That is a nice song,' just to be polite. When someone performs for you, you don't want to simply not respond to their whole presentation, and to be polite, I probably said something." At the end of the session, Melcher gave Manson 50 dollars - all of the money in his wallet - to buy some hay for the horses.

Melcher had soured on Manson, but said nothing, hoping that his silence would eventually be recognised as disinterest. Armed with an innate belief in his own abilities, Manson failed to pick up the message. He repeatedly tried to reach Melcher but failed. Jakobson told Manson that Melcher had moved, but refused to give him his private telephone number. Finally Melcher returned to Spahn Ranch in the early summer of 1969: witnesses recalled a loud argument between the men when Manson demanded a recording contract and Melcher left with no agreement in place. When, a few weeks later, Manson tracked down Melcher and confronted him on the issue, he was finally told that there would be no album.

A furious Manson approached a hanger-on known as Sunshine Pierce, asking if he would be interested in a bit of work. Thinking that Manson had robbery in mind, Pierce agreed. Then Manson dropped his bombshell: there was a man he wanted killed for betraying him, although it might be necessary to kill several others. He thought he could pay Pierce about \$5,000 for the job. Thoroughly unnerved, Pierce left Spahn Ranch the following morning.

Manson's dream of becoming a recording star was dead. He'd befriended a Beach Boy and a top recording producer, made demo tapes, and believed that the expressions of interest were firm promises. Now, he believed the whole world had lied to him and betrayed him. "How are you going to get to the establishment?" he complained that summer. "You can't sing to them. I tried that. I tried to save them, but they wouldn't listen. Now we've got to destroy them."

“THINKING THAT MANSON HAD ROBBERY IN MIND, PIERCE AGREED. THEN MANSON DROPPED HIS BOMBSHELL”

ABOVE
Dennis Wilson at the time of the Tate-LaBianca trials

INSET TOP
Dennis Wilson in 1969

ALL YOU NEED IS BLOOD

CHARLES MANSON'S FAVOURITE BAND WAS THE BEATLES. HE ALSO CLAIMED THEY HAD INSPIRED HIS WARPED AND VIOLENT RACE WAR FANTASY

WORDS JAMES MCMAHON

For a time, Charles Manson claimed he didn't much care for The Beatles. "I'm a Bing Crosby fan," he said in an interview conducted in 1985. And yet there is plenty of evidence to the contrary.

In the months leading up to the Tate-LaBianca murders of August 1969, Manson explained to the Family that the apocalyptic war he anticipated ensuing between blacks and whites was predicted in *Helter Skelter*, a Paul McCartney-penned slab of proto punk rock that sat

on side-three of The Beatles' eponymous 1968 double album. The record, more commonly known as 'The White Album', contained numerous songs - *Blackbird* and *Piggies* perhaps the most significant of them - that Manson interpreted as possessing hidden calls to violence.

Manson explained that when Paul McCartney sang the words, "Blackbird singing in the dead of night / take these broken wings and learn to fly / all your life / you were only waiting for this moment

BELOW
The Beatles expressed shock and revulsion at Manson's sinister interpretations of their songs' meanings

to arise", what he was actually singing was a call to arms for black men to unite and take over, thereby triggering an uprising that would lead to the coming race war. And, when George Harrison sang, "Everywhere there's lots of Piggies / living piggy lives / you can see them out for dinner / with their piggy wives / clutching forks and knives / to eat their bacon", what he was actually singing about was the establishment the blacks were to take on.

Blackbird's true meaning has long seen McCartney giving contrary explanations. Sometimes he's said the song was inspired by him hearing the call of a blackbird while studying transcendental meditation with The Beatles in Rishikesh, India. At other times he's said the song was written in Scotland as a comment on interracial tension in America's Southern states. The meaning of *Piggies* is much clearer; the song was written by Harrison as an Orwellian satire on greed and consumerism. Allegedly, Manson was a huge fan of the line, "what they need is a damn good whacking", interpreting it as an order of sorts for blacks to rise up and take over.

It's difficult now, even after so long, to listen to said songs without thinking about the connotations Manson's warped interpretations have saddled them with. Using the blood of the slain, the words 'Helter [sic] Skelter' would be painted on the LaBiancas' fridge during the murders of 9 August 1969. The words 'Death to pigs' were daubed on the walls. Family member Patricia Krenwinkel would stab Leno LaBianca 14 times with an ivory-handled, two-tined carving fork. This she would leave jutting out of his stomach. The reference to *Piggies* seems explicit.

Harrison expressed his feelings during the filming of the band's 1995 six-part TV documentary *Anthology*. "It was upsetting to be associated with something so sleazy as Charles Manson,"



"When the Beatles' White Album came out" Family member Catherine Share explained on the 2009 documentary *Manson*. "Charlie listened to it over and over and over again. He was quite certain that the Beatles had tapped into his spirit the truth—that everything was gonna come down and the black man was going to rise. It wasn't that Charlie listened to the White Album and started following what he thought the Beatles were saying. It was the other way around. He thought the Beatles were talking about what he had been expounding for years."

LUCIFER RISING

MANSON WASN'T THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY WITH A KEEN INTEREST IN MUSIC. ENTER BOBBY BEAUSOLEIL.

Inspired by Aleister Crowley's poem *Hymn to Lucifer*, experimental filmmaker Kenneth Anger completed his film *Lucifer Rising* in 1972. Yet it wasn't given a proper release until 1980 when Family member Bobby Beausoleil delivered his soundtrack. He'd recorded it behind bars.

The score was supposed to be composed by fellow Crowley enthusiast Jimmy Page. The pair had met at a London-based auction where the two were attempting to outbid each other on a piece of Crowley memorabilia. Page invited Anger to his flat at 10, Whitehall Place, the banks of Loch Ness, a residence that had previously belonged to Crowley. Then he allowed him to move into the basement of his London flat. When Anger allegedly insulted Page's wife, Charlotte, the pair fell out. Anger held a press conference. "I'm beginning to think Jimmy's dressed up as a musician," he said. "He's got no themes, no inspiration, no melodies to offer."

Hearing of this, Bobby Beausoleil—who had previously worked as Anger's chauffeur, been a member of Arthur Lee's pop-rock band The Grass Roots, as well as having secured a part in the film *Lucifer Rising*—arrived from Tracy Prison in California. Here Beausoleil was serving a life sentence, commuted from the death penalty, for the 1979 murder of Beausoleil's former girlfriend Hinman on the order of Manson, who believed he owed the Family money. Along with Susan Atkins and Mary Brunner, Hinman not only had her bare chest with a samurai sword but was tortured for three days before being suffocated with a pillow. In accordance with the goals of *Helter Skelter*, the Family then smeared the words "political piggy" on the walls with Hinman's blood in an attempt to frame the Black Panthers for the murder.



"Charles Manson interpreted that *Helter Skelter* was something to do with the Paul McCartney of the *Yoko Ono*," said McCartney in the 2000 book *The Beatles Anthology*. "I still don't know what all that stuff is, it's from the Bible. Revelations—I haven't read it so wouldn't know. But he interpreted the whole thing, and arrived at having to go out and kill everyone. It was frightening, because you don't write songs for those reasons."

Ringo Starr, the Beatle who was perhaps least shy of befriending the LA elite, also describes the band's unwanted association with Manson as being "upsetting." He said, "I was terrified of him and Sharon Tate and, God, it was a rough time. It stopped everyone in their tracks, because suddenly all this violence came out in the midst of all this love and peace and psychedelia. It was pretty miserable—actually, and everyone got really insecure—not just us, not just the rockers, but everyone in LA felt, 'Oh God, it can happen to anybody.' It did. And they caught the bugger."

Manson had arrived at 'The White Album' in the December of 1968. Nothing too surprising there. A new Beatles album was an event to anyone with an interest in popular music, let alone revolution and



“THE RECORD FLICKED A MALEVOLENT SWITCH IN MANSON”

TOP Roman Polanski was present at the art exhibition where John and Yoko first met

INSET Terry Meliker and his mother Dore Day

counterculture. And yet it does appear that the record, and thereby *Helter Skelter*, flicked a malevolent switch in Manson and moved his criminality onto another level.

"Are you hep to what The Beatles are saying?" Family member Brooks Poston remembers Manson frequently asking him at the time. "Before *Helter Skelter* came along, all Charlie cared about was orgies," adds his peer Paul Watkins.

And yet 'The White Album' wasn't the only Beatles album to carry deep



significance for Manson. "From the beginning, Charlie believed the Beatles music carried an important message - to us," Watkins wrote in his 1979 book *My Life with Charles Manson*. "He said their album, *The Magical Mystery Tour*, expressed the essence of his own philosophy. Basically Charlie's trip was to programme us all to submit, to give up our egos, which, in a spiritual sense is a lofty aspiration. As rebels within a materialistic, decadent culture, we could dig it."

Manson was such a fan of The Beatles that, when renting a bright yellow-painted house in Canoga Park, California - not far from Spahn Ranch where the Family would plot 'Helter Skelter' - he would refer to it as the 'Yellow Submarine'. *Magical Mystery Tour* was a phrase he'd frequently use to describe the life and purpose of the Family. It's indisputable that Manson was enthralled by the Liverpool band from the very moment he heard them.

In February 1964, when The Fab Four first arrived in the United States, Manson was 29 years old and incarcerated in the United States Penitentiary at McNeil Island in southern Puget Sound, for the crime of trying to cash a US Treasury cheque. Fellow inmate and Depression-era gangster Alvin Karpis taught him how to play the steel guitar.

"This kid approaches me to request music lessons," Karpis recalled in his 1980 autobiography. "He wants to learn guitar and become a music star. 'Little Charlie' is so lazy and shiftless, I doubt if he'll put in the time required to learn. The youngster has been in institutions all of his life - first orphanages, then reformatories, and finally federal prison. His mother, a prostitute, was never around to look after him. I decide it's time someone did something for him. And to my surprise, he learns quickly. He has a pleasant voice and a pleasing personality, though he's unusually meek and mild for a convict. He never has a hard word to say and is never involved in even an argument." Manson would regularly tell Karpis he could be bigger than The Beatles, "if only he was given a chance."

And yet, while the impact The Beatles had on Manson was seismic, it's not hard to see *The White Album* as providing the moment his fandom intersected with delusion, yielding the ideological shards that would soon cause so much bloodshed. Manson applied significance to the entire record. Some of this meant passing off strange coincidence as proof of his insight. Prior to the record's release, Manson had begun to call Family member Susan Atkins,

MURDER MUSIC

NEEL YOUNG THOUGHT HE WAS TALENTED. DENNIS WILSON TOO. BUT WAS MANSON'S OWN MUSIC ACTUALLY ANY GOOD?

We live in an era where society is embroiled in a conversation about whether it's possible to separate art from the artist. Michael Jackson? R Kelly? It's impossible to listen to Manson's music without considering the enormity of his crimes, but *Lie: The Love and Terror Cult*, Manson's debut album, does contain the seeds of a warped folk-rock talent.

Released on vinyl on 6 March 1970, through Awareness Records – an imprint set up by producer Phil Kaufman, who'd met Manson while in prison on a marijuana smuggling charge – the cover of *Lie* is a parody of the *Life* magazine cover Manson had appeared on the year prior, on 19 December 1969. The 'F' in 'LIFE' has been replaced and 'The dark edge of hippie life' strap removed. According to the album's sleeve notes, the record was recorded primarily at Gold Star Studios on 8 August 1968, with track B3, *Sick City*, recorded on 11 September 1967, at an unspecified location. Two tracks had been recorded even earlier: *Look at Your Game*, *Girl* and *Eyes of a Dreamer*. Both are taken from a recording that was intended as a demo for a subsidiary of MCA Records called *Unit*.

During a 1991 interview with Ron Reagan Jr, Manson himself seemed keen to distance himself from the record, saying, "That particular album was made off a little old \$7 tape recorder, and it was put together as a promotion angle, and the guy made six or seven hundred dollars for that. My music is not on tape."

Charles Manson was no Lennon or McCartney. Hell, he wasn't even Ringo. And he had a voice that made Dylan sound like a choir of angels. But if you're a fan of unhinged, acid-fried folk – and have the stomach for it – you'll perhaps be able to begrudgingly appreciate the art produced by



Sadie Mae Glutz. When the album arrived, the inclusion of the song *Serp Sadie* meant Manson could pass off Atkins' nickname as a prophecy of sorts.

Elsewhere, he would point to the record as providing proof of his status as returning messiah. The line "Your song will be the art / sing it loud so I can hear you" from the ballad *I Will* was interpreted as

proof that Manson meant to make his own album of music that would spread the news that Jesus Christ had returned in his form. When *Wild Honey Pie* asks "honey pie to 'Come show me the magic / Of your Hollywood song'" he'd explain to his followers frequently addled on psychotropic drugs that this meant Christ had returned to Earth, was in Los Angeles, and well they were looking at him.

The Family claimed to have written letters, mailed telegrams and even called England inviting The Beatles to fly to America to join the group in anticipation of the race war. It's unlikely any of this correspondence ever reached the band,

LEFT

Alan Garner, the man who taught Manson how to play guitar

ABOVE

The Beatles arrive in San Francisco in 1964 ahead of their tour

ABOVE RIGHT

Released in 1970, *Lie: The Love and Terror Cult* was Charles Manson's debut studio album

though during the Manson trial, several members of the Family did express surprise and disappointment that The Beatles hadn't come to court to aid their defence. The idea that this would ever have happened is of course almost certainly drug-addled delusion, but there's long been debate about whether The Beatles and Manson and his followers ever physically crossed paths.

This isn't as unlikely as it might sound. Manson had briefly been part of the Beach Boys camp. It was an era where boundaries between artist and fan could be blurred, and this equally applied to Manson's aspiring – and, in some influential minds, talented – musician. Thanks to the Ringo quote shared previously we do know that The Beatles and Polanski were friendly. It's on record that the film director attended the Yoko Ono art exhibition in 1966 where Lennon and the Japanese artist first met. Not only that, but Polanski's classic 1966 horror *Rosemary's Baby* starred Mia Farrow, who Lennon took to meditate with him.

“IT'S NOT HARD TO SEE 'THE WHITE ALBUM' AS PROVIDING THE MOMENT HIS FANDOM INTERSECTED WITH DELUSION”

at the Maharishi camp in India a couple of years later.

But it's a quote by John Lennon within an interview conducted with *Rolling Stone* in 1970 that gives some weight to the theory that the two camps mingled. "The second time we had [LSD]," says Lennon, "we were in LA. We were on tour in one of those houses, Doris Day's house or wherever it was we used to stay, and the three of us took it, Ringo, George and I. Maybe Neil [Young - who had once attempted to get Manson signed to Warner Bros Records and even given him a motorcycle as a gift] and a couple of The Byrds - what's his name, the one in the Stills and Nash thing, [David] Crosby and the other guy, who used to do the lead. [Roger] McGuinn. I think they came, I'm not sure, on a few trips."

This information is interesting. Terry Melcher, the influential LA music producer who once considered signing Manson to his label and briefly thought about making a documentary about him, was the son of Doris Day. It's often thought that Melcher was the intended target of the murder on 8 August 1969 that took the lives of an eight-month pregnant Sharon Tate, coffee heiress Abigail Folger, hairdresser Jay Sebring, writer Wojciech Frykowski and 18-year-old Steven Parent. Melcher had rented the Cielo Drive property where the murders took place prior to moving out and Polanski and Tate moving in. He'd also upset Manson and the Family by backing out of the aforementioned projects after unease at Manson's erratic behaviour. And he'd worked often with The Byrds.

And yet the occasion Lennon speaks of was 1965, during which time Manson was still incarcerated. And yet by 1967, Manson was walking the streets of San Francisco's hippie mecca Haight-Ashbury, recruiting for the Family, touting his music around and sharing his belief he was the returning son of God. This was the same time that George Harrison and his wife Pattie Boyd were living in the area, at the residence of Pattie's sister Jenny Boyd. And right now we'd recommend you strap yourself in, because this is about to get extremely complicated.

The same year, George and Pattie left the area and moved to the Hollywood Hills, renting a mansion on Blue Jay Way



ABOVE Ringo Starr with another man at the Cannes Film Festival in 1968

BELOW Derek Taylor and Brian Epstein in conversation



“THERE’S LONG BEEN DEBATE ON WHETHER THE BEATLES AND MANSON CROSSED PATHS”

that belonged to the manager of the jazz and big band singer Peggy Lee. His name was Ludwig Gerber. This residence provided the inspiration for a song of the same name that would appear on *Magical Mystery Tour* - which was written on 1 August 1967 on a Hammond S-6 organ Harrison had found in the house, waiting for Beatles publicist Derek Taylor to arrive. Harrison had obtained the use of the mansion via his manager Brian Epstein. He'd called the Beatles' attorney Robert

Fitzpatrick. And it was he who'd arranged the hire with Gerber.

Derek Taylor had worked as the Beatles' press officer since 1964, travelling to the US when the band made their first visit the same year. Afterwards he moved to California, co-founding the Monterey International Pop Festival of 1967, and subsequently representing the likes of Captain Beefheart... as well as The Beach Boys and The Byrds. It's thereby almost certain that Taylor and The Beatles would

BELOW

Manson's love of music continued even during his time behind bars.

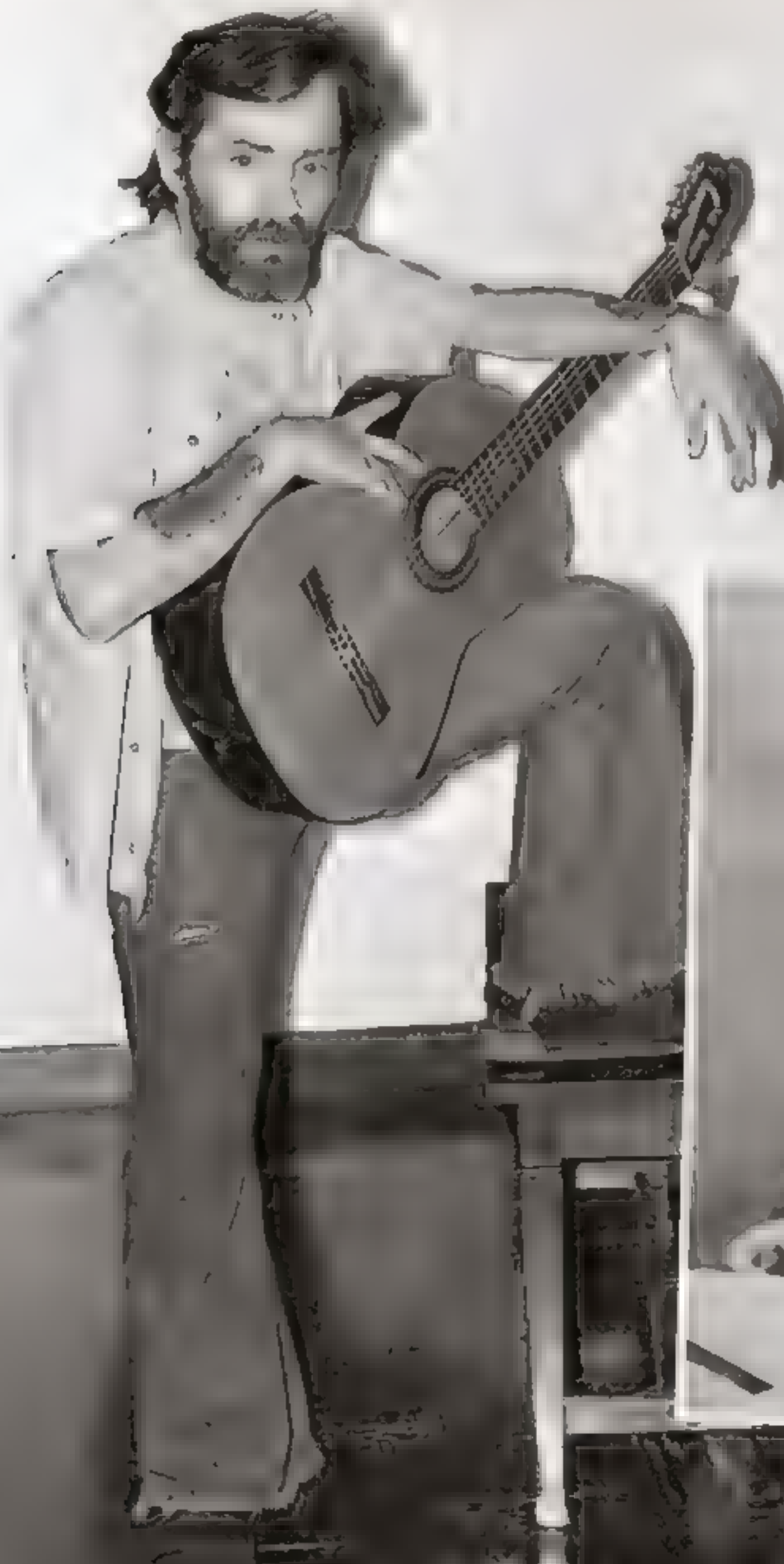
IT'S HIS MUSIC

Charles Manson claimed he was more a fan of Bing Crosby than he was The Beatles.

have crossed paths with Terry Melcher who worked with both - as well as Manson. All the bands partied and jammed together often. Could Manson and the Family have been present at these times? Who knows, but it does give *Maxwell's Silver Hammer* - a song on 1969's *Abbey Road* about a medical student called Maxwell Edison who kills with a silver hammer - written during this era - a chilling edge. "Rose and Valerie screaming from the gallery say, 'He must go free' - the judge does not agree, and he tells them so" feels awfully prophetic of the Family's actions during the Manson trial that began in the June of 1970.

Lennon had remarkably measured feelings about Manson when asked directly to share his thoughts about him. "I don't know what I thought when it happened," he said. "I just think a lot of things he says are true. That he's a child of the state made by us. That he took their children in when nobody else would. But of course he's cracked, all right... he's barmy."

We'll never know how the life of Charles Manson would have played out if he'd paid as much attention to the words of Bing Crosby as he did to those of The Beatles. Chances are chaos and tragedy would still have ensued. But it's certainly a fascinating and bloody subtext to the story of the world's greatest rock band, as well as one of the world's most infamous criminals.



COMING DOWN FAST

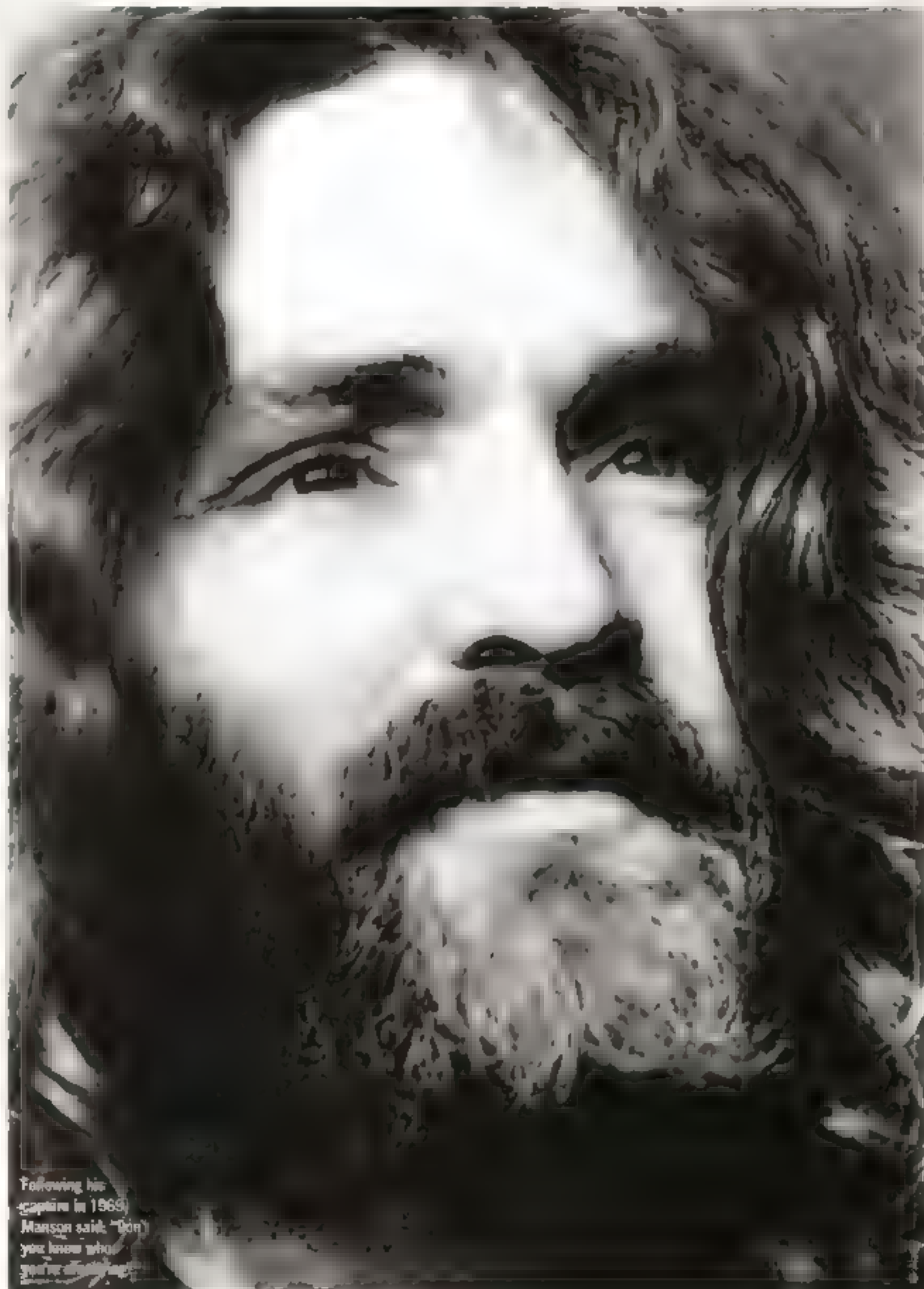
A SICK AND TWISTED PLAN INSTIGATED BY A MADMAN, WRAPPED UP IN THE LYRICS OF A CLASSIC SONG

WORDS JOANNA ELPHICK

It would have been nothing more than a filler on the Beatles' eponymous album, but thanks to Charles Manson and his psychotic family, *Helter Skelter* has become the soundtrack for pure evil, the most infamous song of the 1960s.

Charles's idea of the need for a revolution was an understandable one considering his pathetic early life. He had been universally rejected, first by his own mother, and then by society as a whole, so naturally, he believed things could only get better with a considerable shakeup of the establishment. He looked for obvious unrest, anything that might instigate such a happening, and soon became aware of a new, African-American movement rumbling in the background. The Black Panthers were on the rise and Manson decided that their goals could support his own desperate need to dominate. Times had changed and cries for racial equality could be heard across the world, both peaceably and through violence. Meanwhile back on Haight Street, the young, untroubled flower children were more than happy to share their beds with the black youths living in the area. With his head full of Nazi doctrine Charlie found the whole business repellant, commenting on the multicultural coupling with disdain, but he was intrigued by the racially violent outbursts that punctuated California, and more importantly, the media's reaction to it.

It seemed to Charlie that there was a storm brewing and he fully intended to keep ahead of it. The Family were used to his dark mutterings but, as his fragile mind became evermore paranoid, his premonition of a war of biblical proportions became blacker still. Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated on 4 April 1968, reinforcing his beliefs of an imminent battle, ominously referring to the killing as a heavy number. By midsummer Charlie had moved the majority of his Family out to the Spahn Ranch, a run-down film set on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Here he



Following his capture in 1969, Manson said, "Don't you know who you're attacking?"



CHARLIE OBSESSIVELY LISTENED TO THE ALBUM, WRITING OUT THE LYRICS

could ply his impressionable acolytes with copious amounts of drugs and fill their minds with his doomsday fantasies. It was the perfect location since they could leave the tedium of the real world behind and play in a make-believe land of his choosing. A further home was acquired on 1 November when Family members drove out into Death Valley and set up camp at the unused Myers Ranch, owned by the grandmother of one of Charlie's 'girls'. Manson was delighted with the property since it suited his latest plans of a secret hideout, and gave the old lady a thank-you gift in the form of a gold disc, given to

him by the Beach Boys' Dennis Wilson. For once, Charlie was satisfied with his situation even if the details of his plan were still extremely sketchy. All he had to do now was sit back until everything came together and started making sense. He didn't have very long to wait.

On 25 November 1968, The Beatles released their double record entitled *The Beatles* - nicknamed 'The White Album'. Manson was already a huge fan having heard the band while serving a prison sentence for attempting to cash a forged US Treasury cheque, and was happy to listen to their latest release when a friend offered to play it to him. Family member 'Tex' Watson hopped along to the music unaware that this was the point of no return for Charles Manson and his Family. The lyrics had spoken to Manson, finally



The Beatles' 'White Album', Manson's inspiration for *Helter Skelter* and the accompanying 'Carnival of Terror'

ABOVE LEFT Helter Skelter, the iconic British fairground ride. Manson had no idea what the phrase really meant and consequently gave it his own dark meaning.

ABOVE RIGHT Death Valley would become the Family's home, where Manson made up his murderous, unhinged prophecy

making sense of his Bible scriptures, his seething hatred towards the establishment and his deep mistrust of all black people, Armageddon was to become a reality.

Over the next few weeks, Charlie obsessively listened to the album, writing out the lyrics over and over again before pawing through his well-thumbed Bible and jotting down further notes. Eventually, on New Year's Eve, he called a meeting, inviting all his closest Family. Then, on that freezing cold night out at Myers Ranch, huddled around a roaring campfire

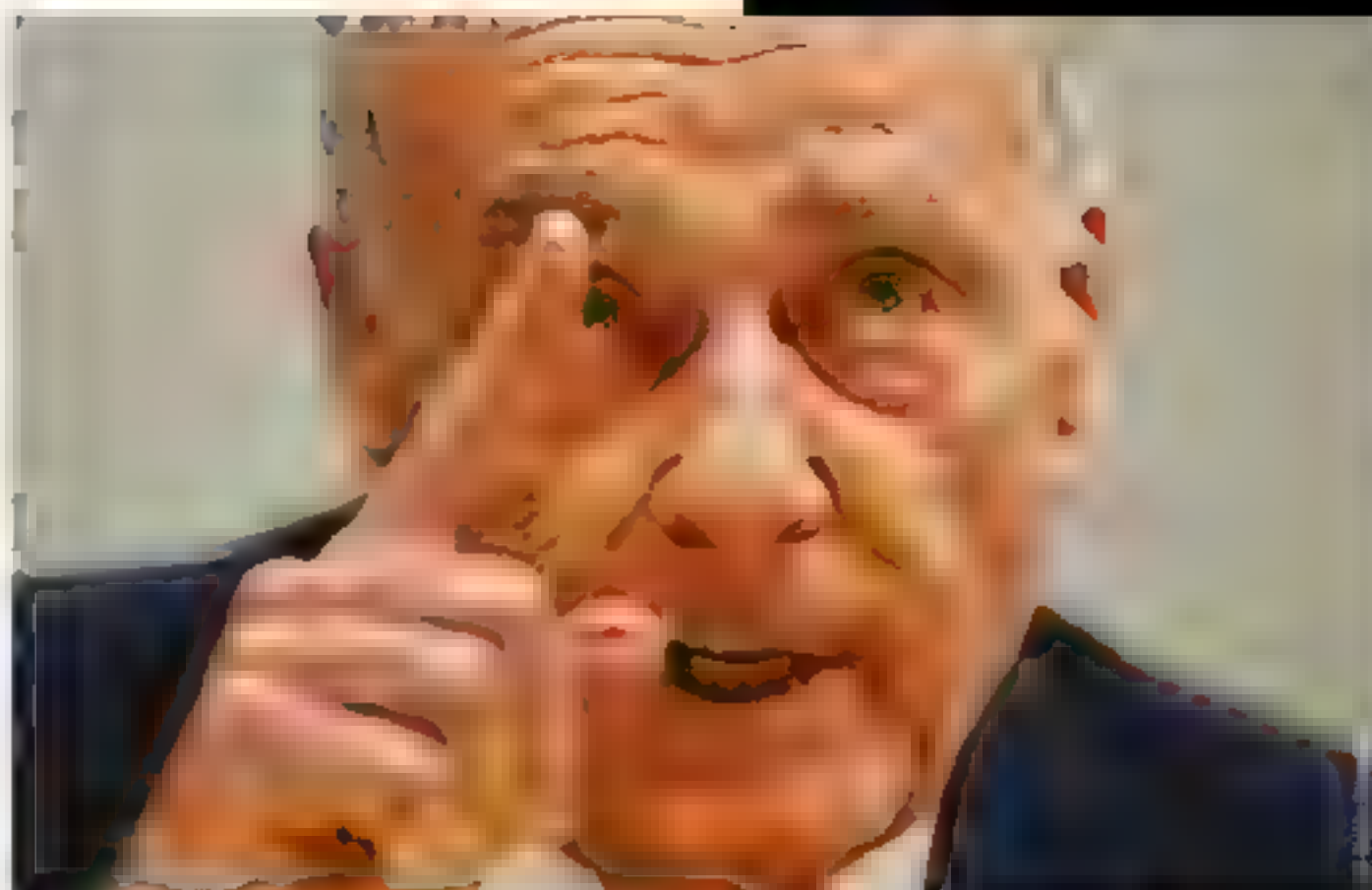
Under the stars, Charles Manson shared his violent, apocalyptic vision. He called it 'Helter Skelter'.

He had long since known of an approaching Armageddon, but according to Manson the songs on the Beatles album contained a series of coded messages referring to the upcoming event. Luckily for the Family Manson could decipher their true meaning and it turned out that he had been right all along. It did indeed involve the angry black mobs frequenting America and it confirmed his own vital importance in the future of all mankind. Now was the time for him to reveal his true identity and to share this truth with the Family.

There was to be a massive race war. The blacks, who had grown tired of the oppression of their peoples, intended to rise up against the whites. It would be a long and bloody affair but eventually the whites would be overthrown, leaving the blacks in charge. At this news, the Family were panic-stricken, but Manson quickly allayed their fears, for weak, diminutive, hitherto

RIGHT
Vincent Bugliosi would write *Helter Skelter*, the best-selling true crime book in publishing history.

BOTTOM
With his short hair and a swastika cut into his skin, Manson reveals his enduring fascination with Nazi values.

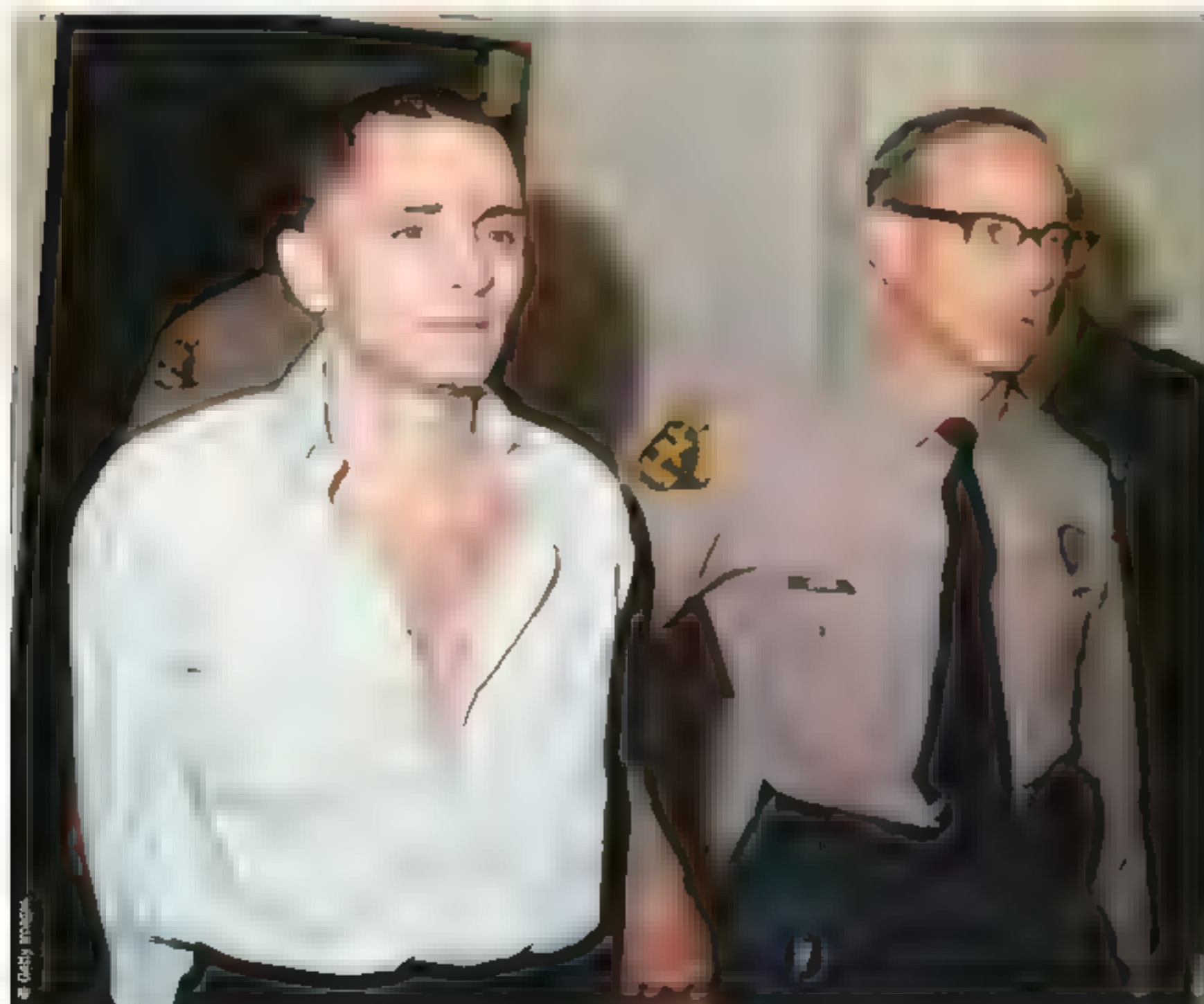


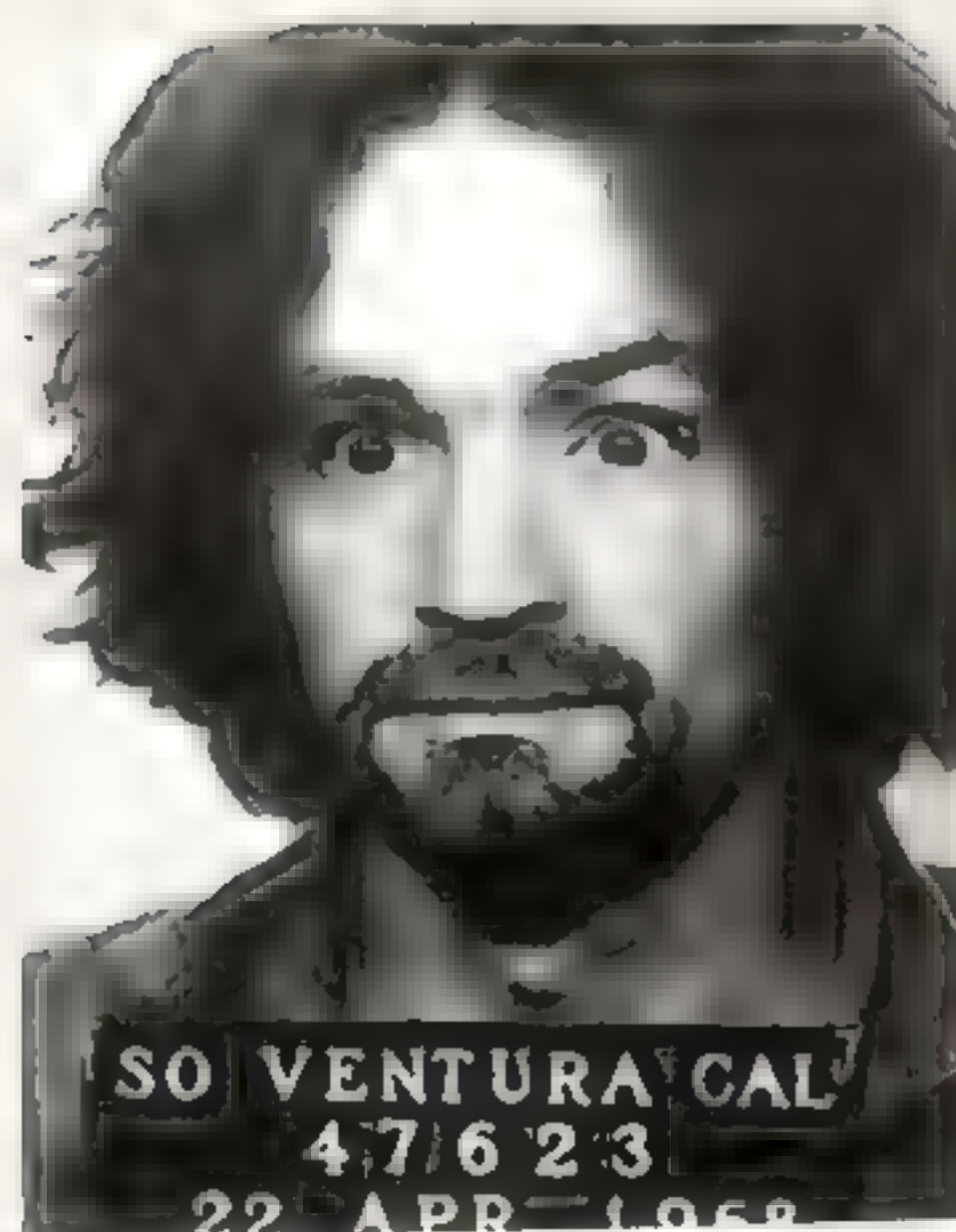
unsuccessful Charlie was in fact Jesus Christ reborn, sent down to save the chosen few. The Family were his loyal disciples and would therefore not only be spared, but also richly rewarded for their support. During the violent coup, Manson was to lead his Family to a secret underground location in Death Valley known as the 'Bottomless Pit' where they would be safe. They were to remain in hiding until the blacks had finally won the war and all whites above ground were wiped out. After a short time, the blacks would realise they were not equipped to deal with

VINCENT BUGLIOSI
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
VINCENT BUGLIOSI MADE SENSE
OF HELTER SKELTER AND USED
THE CASE TO INCARCERATE
MANSON FOREVER.

Bugliosi was only 35 years old when he was selected to prosecute the Manson case. Across the course of the lengthy seven-month trial, he introduced 290 pieces of evidence and called 84 witnesses before the bench in order to successfully prosecute Charles Manson and other key defendants within the Family, accused of the seven Tate-LaBianca killings. The event was a media circus that made a legal superstar of the Minnesota-born lawyer who had to work hundred-hour weeks and often slept in his office. While Manson attracted attention, lunging at the judge with a pencil and carving a swastika in his forehead, Bugliosi spent his time unravelling the gruesome mysteries of Helter Skelter since he felt that this was the key to cracking the case. Manson had not participated in the murders and was therefore convinced that he would eventually walk free, back into the arms of his remaining Family, but Bugliosi decided to use the psychopath's own ramblings against him. He may not have physically joined in with the killings but he clearly orchestrated the horrific events and as Family members, such as Charles 'Tex' Watson and Leslie Van Houten, began to explain why they had carried out the attacks, gleefully regaling the court with the doctrine of Manson's Helter Skelter prophecy, Bugliosi began to develop Manson's motive, ready to deliver to the jury. The Family were acting on the orders of Manson in support of the Helter Skelter prophecy as foretold by their wondrous so-called messiah. Manson was so deeply implicated in the crimes that the court couldn't fail to convict him.

“NOW ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THE WAR TO BEGIN”





LEFT
Mugshot taken in 1968 by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. His increasing paranoia is etched upon his face.

RIGHT
Charles Manson explains the meaning of Helter Skelter during his murder trial in 1970.



© Getty Images

running America and, at this point, Charlie and his band of acolytes would rise up out of the earth - literally - and save the day, with Charlie becoming messiah of the new world order. As Manson himself put it, he would "scratch the black man's fuzzy head and kick him in the butt and tell him to go pick the cotton and go be a good nigger." If proof was needed, the Book of Revelations combined with the Beatles' insightful lyrics neatly explained the entire process.

Of course, the song *Helter Skelter* was misinterpreted from the very start. While John, Paul, George and Ringo sang of a harmless funfair ride, Manson explained, "Helter Skelter means confusion." For him it encapsulated the chaos that was to come and, terrifyingly, the confusion was "coming down fast." He played McCartney's beautiful ballad *Blackbird* repeatedly conveniently

overlooking Paul's support of black women during the Civil Rights Movement, instead hearing a clear message that the 'Black Man' was going to rise up and overthrow the 'White Man' ("You were only waiting for this moment to arise"). The word rise would later be written in blood on the wall of the Labiancas wall.

Now all they had to do was sit back and wait for the war to begin. Unfortunately very little happened and Manson quickly became frustrated by the fact that "Blackie never did anything without whitey showing him how", and he decided that the Family needed to kick-start the proceedings.

While some of the Family were sent out into Death Valley to locate the underground 'City of Gold' as depicted in chapter 21 of Revelations, other trusted disciples were given a far more gruesome task. Manson

would start developing his own album, a concept piece that would help initiate his own Helter Skelter and as a result, the downfall of all whites through subliminal messages. Meanwhile, his Family were to undertake a series of shockingly violent crimes that implicated the black movement. The hippy children were leaving the Summer of Love behind, and altering the course of their drug-addled lives forever.

The brutal murders of Gary Hinman on 25 July 1969, and Donald 'Shorty' Shea in late-August of the same year was supposed to force the race war into action. A large paw print painted in blood on Hinman's wall was intended to point to the Black Panthers, but the police were left unconvinced, and so the Doomsday Prophecy appeared no closer to fruition. Manson was both furious and highly frustrated at this. Nobody, including record producer Terry Melcher, was interested in his music and the murders had barely made the news, let alone forced the beginning of the end. How was he to be recognised as the messiah when the establishment remained unshaken?

The multiple gruesome murders that were to follow also failed to instigate this supposed apocalypse, but they certainly ensured that Manson's unsettling Helter Skelter prophecy would go down in history as one of the most notorious criminal events of all time.

ABOVE
An exterior view of the Death Valley ranch where the Family were first told of their messiah's 'Doomsday' prophecy.

BEFORE THE CARNIVAL OF TERRORS

THE BRUTAL TATE-LABIANCA MURDERS IN AUGUST 1969 HAVE GONE DOWN IN THE ANNALS OF CRIMINAL HISTORY, BUT THEY WEREN'T THE FAMILY'S FIRST FORAY INTO BLOODSHED

WORDS JOANNA ELPHICK

Frustrated by what he saw as the indolent behaviour of the Californian black community in initiating the apocalyptic race war, Manson famously attempted to kick-start Helter Skelter with the now infamous 'Carnival of Terrors'. The horrific multiple killings at Cleo Drive, followed by the double murders at Waverly Drive, introduced America to the twisted world of Manson's Family, but at least two unfortunate individuals had, in fact, already died by their hands by this stage, while others had barely escaped with their lives.

Bernard Crowe was an African-American drug dealer serving the habits of performers working the LA music scene. He had come across the Family on numerous occasions and, despite Manson's hatred of ethnic minorities, was referred to as the Negro member of the Family since he regularly supplied them with drugs.

However, things turned sour when Family member Tex Watson, double-crossed him over a drug scam. Fearing a run-in with the Black Panthers, Manson decided to sort matters out himself, agreeing to meet with Crowe. As five-foot-two-inch Manson faced off with the massive three-hundred-pound Crowe, it looked as if he had bitten off more than he could chew, but the diminutive psychopath had brought along a gun, which quickly evened up the odds. As Crowe lunged forward, Manson pulled the trigger but there was no response; the gun merely clicked. By this time Crowe had grabbed his would-be killer by the throat and pushed him up against a wall where he began squeezing the life out of him. Manson fired again, but said nothing, sending waves of fear through him. Slowly, he turned the gun



into Crowe's stomach and pulled the trigger one last time. The dull thud reassured Manson that the gun had finally worked and the drug dealer crashed to the floor.

Manson was satisfied that the problem had been solved and quickly left the apartment, taking with him all the drugs he could find. Back at the ranch, he admonished Tex Watson for getting him involved in such a dangerous scam but was ultimately pleased with the outcome. However, when news that a drug dealer had been brutally attacked appeared on the television the following day, Manson started getting jittery. Clearly, although the gun had eventually gone off, it hadn't quite done its job and Bernard Crowe was still alive. The chances of a violent revenge attack on the Family's make-believe hideout was inevitable and, although Manson was

ABOVE

Charles Manson happily courts the press following the hearing into Gary Hinman's death.

MAIN

Nicknamed 'Gus' because of his film star good looks, Bobby Beausoleil is escorted from the courtroom during his trial for the murder of Gary Hinman.



keen to kick-start Armageddon, it began to look like it would be happening before he and his acolytes were safely in their secret sanctuary beneath Death Valley, as prophesied in Helter Skelter. This prompted a noticeable increase in Manson's paranoia. His childhood sense of perpetual victimhood instigated a flurry of activity at the ranch; after all, it wasn't just the police officers that were now after them. A week later, a group of young, black men came looking to rent horses, sending Manson into a tailspin, since he was convinced they



“THE MURDER OF GARY HINMAN SET MANSON ON A NEW, FEROCIOUS PATH”

were, in fact, Black Panther spies. During the Manson trial, in 1970, one former member remarked, “If we’d needed any more proof that Heister Smeiter was coming down very soon, this was it.”

ABOVE RIGHT Santa Susana Road where Donald Shea’s mutilated corpse was eventually discovered

RIGHT Bruce Davis and Steve Grogan are taken to court to face charges regarding the murder of Donald Shea



© Getty Images



MAGICAL SWORDS AND SUPERSTARS' GUNS

DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, MANSON AND HIS FAMILY MANAGED TO AMASS A VAST COLLECTION OF WEAPONRY

Manson was a showy individual, constantly aware of his image, which needed to be strong and intimidating. To this end he was keen to acquire an array of extraordinary weapons. During their time at the Spahn Ranch, Manson became friendly with the LA biking fraternity, including the Hell's Angels, who enjoyed the company of Manson's girls and the privacy that the ranch offered them. To say thank you for a particularly memorable weekend of sex and drugs, one group, The Straight Satans, offered Manson a ceremonial samurai sword. This quickly became Manson's weapon of choice since the shining blade invoked fear and awe in equal measure. So thrilled with the sword was he, that he had a scabbard welded onto the front of his dune buggy so that it could lead the way as they went on their now infamous 'creepy crawls' through Hollywood. Manson was convinced the sword was magical and regularly took to cavorting around the ranch, swinging the blade back and forth as he went. It was this blade that he used to slice open Gary Hinman's face.

Manson's favourite gun was a .22 bulletline revolver, which had been given to him by an ex-rodeo performer by the name of Randy Starr. At the height of his fame, Starr had also been a Hollywood stuntman, working on many famous Westerns. One such movie had starred a young Ronald Reagan who had fired the revolver before giving it to Starr. Manson loved the gun's rich pedigree, using it to shoot Bernard Crowe.



JOHNS Ronald Reagan was said to have used Manson's .22 bulletline revolver during the making of a Western before it found its way into the hands of the psychopath.



A short while later the ruthless murder of Gary Hinman set Manson and his hippy family on a new, notoriously ferocious path. Born in Colorado on Christmas Eve, 1944, Gary Allen Hinman was a gentle soul with a good heart and an academic brain. Having obtained a degree in chemistry he spent his time studying for a PhD in sociology and working in a music shop where he taught customers how to play a variety of instruments. He also made a little money on the side buying and selling drugs, which is where he first met the Family. Anyone, including Family members, in need of a place to stay, knew to make their way to Hinman's where the door was always open and food and shelter available. It was a refuge that Hinman was happy to provide but sadly, would prove to be less than safe for its owner.

When Manson heard a rumour that Hinman came from a wealthy background,

he was keen for him to join the Family and turn over all his assets. A number of the girls, including Susan Atkins and Mary Brunner made it their business to get to know him better and both ended up sleeping with him. Gradually the Family pulled him in but when Hinman accidentally sold Family member Bobby Beausoleil some bad drugs, things started to go wrong. Beausoleil had sold the drugs on and now needed to pay the new buyer off so he, Bruce Davis and the girls, paid a visit to Hinman, asking for their money back. Easy-going Hinman apologised profusely, promising to make things right but he simply hadn't got the money there and then. In a fit of pique, Beausoleil beat up his one-time friend but at the end of the fight there was still no money forthcoming, after all, he didn't have any.

Beausoleil was unsure how to proceed, ultimately making the disastrous decision

TOP

Robert Kenneth Beausoleil talks with newsmen after the jury returned a verdict of first degree murder.

ABOVE RIGHT

Having turned himself in, Bruce Davis is indicted for his part in the brutal murder of Gary Hinman.

ABOVE LEFT

Members of the Manson Family including some of the children who were taken away by social services after Sheila allegedly informed the police of the goings on at the Spahn Ranch.



to call Manson. Manson was deeply unimpressed with Beausoleil's handling of the situation and, without saying a word pulled out a samurai sword and sliced open Hinman's face from his ear down to his cheek in order to show his acolyte 'how to be a man'. Meanwhile, Davis pointed a gun at their screaming friend. During the trial, Family members present at the attack recalled the huge amount of blood pouring from his face. Manson then left telling Beausoleil to deal with the mess. Things were now completely out of control, with Hinman begging to be taken to a hospital. For three days the Family tortured him before Beausoleil realised that, not only were they not going to get their money back, but they could never let Hinman go to the hospital since they would instantly call the police. The terrified captive was then repeatedly stabbed to death. The Family proceeded to paint political piggy on the wall in his own blood and attempted to draw a panther's paw in order to pin the killing on the Black Panthers before leaving Hinman clutching his prayer beads, in a pool of his own blood and viscera.

The slaying of Sharon Tate and her friends at 10050 Cielo Drive, followed by the killing of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca

the very next night, terrified the residents of Los Angeles and gruesome images filled television screens all over the world. But whilst Hollywood rocked at the latest crime spree, nobody, including the police, had connected all the deaths together and there was one more murder to go before the bloody massacre would be over.

Donald Shea had been an actor and Hollywood stuntman before taking a less glamorous role as a ranch worker when film work dried up. It was at the Spahn Ranch that he first came across Charles Manson. The pair instantly disliked one another something Shea was very vocal about. When Manson had negatively commented on Shea's black wife, Shea had responded, "You might tell some of those kids what to do, but not me. I know how to handle you." There was no way Manson was going to let him get away with that.

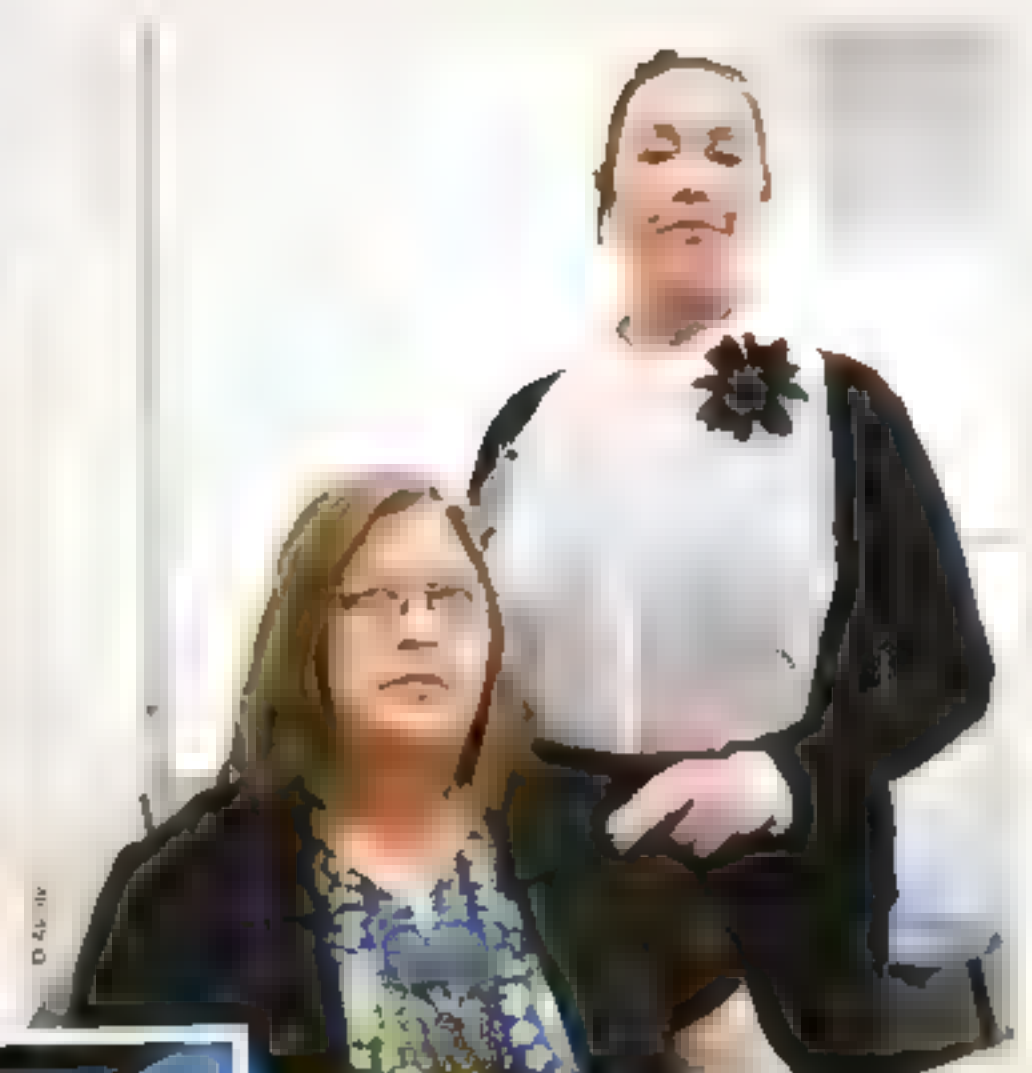
Things came to a head in late August 1969. Someone had informed the police of the bizarre goings-on at the ranch, which had resulted in a number of arrests and seven of the Family's children being taken into care. Everyone, but most significantly Manson, believed that the informer was

TOP LEFT
Susan Atkins led away from the courtroom, having testified in the Gary Hinman trial.

TOP RIGHT
Former Family member Barbara Hoyt and Debra Tate (sister of murdered Senator Ted Kennedy) give evidence during Bruce Davis's murder hearing.

ABOVE
The 1932 Dodge Power Wagon, owned by Tex Watson and used to lure Donald Shea away from the Spahn Ranch.

RIGHT
A traditional Japanese katana Charles Manson believed that his own samurai sword was magical.



Shea. The ranch hand realised he was in danger and asked his boss, Ruby Pearl, if he could stay at her house that night while she went to work. She had agreed but as he waved her off the property, she noticed Manson and a number of his Family creeping out of the shadows towards him. He was never seen alive again.

Manson had instructed Tex Watson, Bruce Davis and Clem Grogan to take Shea for a ride, ostensibly so they could look for abandoned car parts, but in reality so they could execute him. While in the car, Grogan smashed the unwitting Shea across the back of the head with a metal pipe. Watson then proceeded to stab him. Having dragged his semi-conscious body out of the car, the gang began ripping at him with various knives and bayonets. It was a savage attack, resulting in Clem Grogan decapitating the ex-stuntman, while Davis and Watson hacked off his arms and legs. Eventually the Family were left with nine pieces of his body, which they dumped into a shallow grave on the Santa Susana Road and covered it in leaves. His body was not discovered until 1977 when Clem Grogan eventually agreed to help recover his remains.

Donald Shea's gruesome death was the last murder Manson was involved in before his arrest and trial on 15 June 1970.



TWO NIGHTS OF HORROR

OVER TWO HOT AUGUST NIGHTS IN 1969, CHARLES MANSON AND HIS FOLLOWERS UNLEASHED A WAVE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD

WORDS GREG KING

After nearly a week's absence in Northern California, Charles Manson returned to Spahn Ranch on Friday, 8 August 1969 to find that his world was disintegrating. Bobby Beausoleil had been arrested; if he talked, the police would descend on Spahn Ranch. Later that afternoon, Mary Brunner and Sandra Good drove to a nearby Sears store to make some purchases using a stolen credit card. At 10pm he learned that Brunner and Good had been arrested. Dennis Wilson had rejected him; Terry Melcher had rejected him; Rudi Altobelli had rejected him; his Family was on the verge of being destroyed.

Manson's mood turned sour. What drove him to action that particular night seems to have stemmed from a combination of factors: 'Helter Skelter', certainly, but also revenge against the establishment that had rejected him; new crimes, with bloody messages left at the scene, might raise doubts about Beausoleil's culpability in Hinman's death and thus prevent him from telling all he knew and implicating Manson. But anger also joined with desperation – his Family was falling apart. New murders would solidify Manson's hold over his followers; their participation would help to ensure their silence if the police came for the group. Everyone in Hollywood, Manson complained, was too busy with their own lives to notice what was going on around them. No one was interested in anyone else. With this, he declared, 'Now is the time for

Manson pulled Charles 'Tex' Watson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Linda Kasabian aside. He told each to dress in dark garb, get a knife and a change of clothes. 'I want you to go to that house where Terry Melcher used to live,' he told Watson, 'and totally destroy everyone in that house, as gruesome as you can.' When the group assembled, they had three knives, a .22-calibre Duntline Special revolver, a pair of bolt cutters, and a 40-foot strand of nylon rope. They climbed into ranch-hand Johnny Schwartz's 1959 white and yellow Ford. Before they left, Manson leaned into the window and said, 'Leave a sign. You girls know what to write. Something witchy.'

Just after midnight Watson pulled to a stop in front of the gate to 10050 Cleo Drive; Kasabian saw him take the bolt cutters and climb up the telephone pole. With a splat, the cut telephone lines fell across the gate, cutting off the inhabitants from the world. After parking the car back down the hill, the foursome scaled the embankment at the right of the gate and began to stash their spare clothing when they were caught in the headlights of a car.

It was Steven Parent, leaving after visiting caretaker William Garretson in the guest house. Watson ran up to the car, knife in one hand and gun in the other. As Parent tried to reach out and push the electronic button to open the gate, Watson slashed his left hand, and then fired the gun four times, hitting the teenager in the arm, face, and chest. Turning off the ignition and

“EVERYONE IN HOLLYWOOD WAS TOO BUSY WITH THEIR OWN LIVES TO NOTICE WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND THEM”



ABOVE

The county coroner's office takes notes and look at the bodies found on the lawn of the Sharon Tate-Roman Polanski home

by Jeff



pushing the car away from the gate, Watson motioned for the others to follow him as he walked onto the estate's front lawn, where the Christmas lights left by previous occupant Candice Bergen twinkled along the spat rail fence.

The front door was locked. Watson slit a screen on an open dining room window and crawled inside, opening the white Dutch door on the front porch to the others, sending Kasabian back up to the gate as a lookout. The remaining trio entered the living room. In front of them stretched a long beige couch whose back was draped with an American flag, on which Wojciech Frykowski was asleep. "Wake up!" Watson said. Frykowski stirred and sleepily asked, "What time is it?"

"Be quiet," Watson answered. "Don't move or you're dead." Rising from the couch, Frykowski demanded, "Who are you?" Flatly, Watson replied, "I'm the Devil, and I'm here to do the Devil's business." Watson told Atkins to look for something with which to tie up Frykowski. She found a towel and tried to tie his hands before searching the rest of the house. In the half way leading to the bedrooms she paused at the open door to the bedroom shared by Abigail Folger and Wojciech. Abigail leaned against the headboard, reading a book, yet inexplicably when she saw Atkins—a strange woman dressed in black who suddenly appeared in the door after midnight—she only smiled and waved. Atkins smiled and waved back

ABOVE LEFT The living room at 10140 Cielo Drive after the murders. Sharon's body was found on the floor with her back against the couch where Jay had slept. In the background is the right.

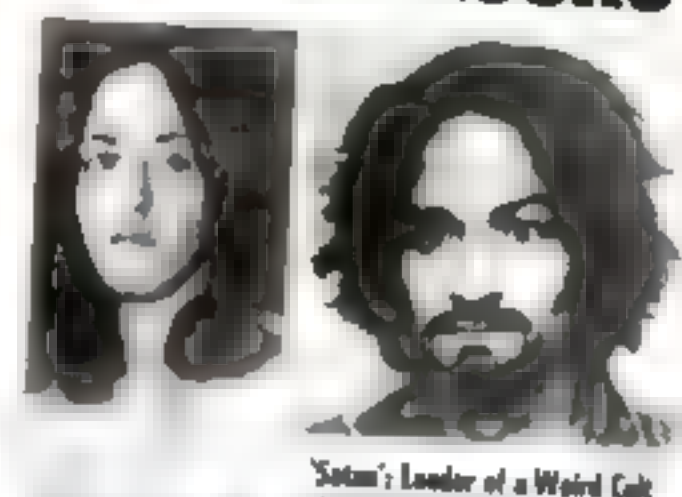
ABOVE RIGHT Sharon Tate's lifeless body is wheeled from her home where she was brutally killed.

LEFT The front cover of the Daily News nearly four months after the bloodbath at Cielo Drive.

BOTTOM RIGHT Having survived and been unaware of the murders in the main house at Cielo Drive, Wilma Garnelson was initially arrested, suspected of committing the brutal slayings.



DAILY NEWS LINK 11 MURDERS TO TATE KOOKS



'Saturn's' Leader of a Weird Cuck

House Backs Nixon on Viet, 333-55



before peering through the half-open door just opposite. Sharon Tate was on the bed propped up against the headboard; Jay Sebring sat on the edge of the bed, his back to the door.

Hearing that there were three others in the house, Watson ordered Atkins to bring them back. "Get up and go into the living room," Atkins told Abigail as she flashed her knife. "Don't ask any questions." Then she did the same with Sharon and Jay. In shock, they did as she said.

With Sharon, Jay and Abigail now in the living room, Watson grabbed the rope he had brought and threw one end over a ceiling beam that ran the length of the room and supported the loft above. Once the rope dangled from the ceiling, he approached Jay and tied his wrists in front of him, looped it around his neck, and pushed him down into an armchair to the left of the couch. Turning to Sharon, Watson took the other end of the rope hanging from the beam and wrapped it around her neck. He then ordered the prisoners to lie on their stomachs in front of the fireplace.

Eight-and-a-half months pregnant and wearing only a bikini, Sharon began to cry. "Can't you see she's pregnant?" Jay asked. "Let her sit down!" He started to rise from the chair and walk toward Watson. His effort to protect Sharon proved fatal. Watson aimed the gun and pulled the trigger. The bullet struck Jay on the left side of his chest, smashed his left fifth rib, and punctured his left lung. With a moan he



MANSON MEETS SHARON TATE

LESS THAN FIVE MONTHS BEFORE HE ORDERED HER DEATH, MANSON CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS MOST FAMOUS VICTIM

On Sunday, 23 March 1969, Manson arrived at 10000 Cimarron Drive, unaware that Terry Melcher had moved out over Christmas and that director Roman Polanski and his wife, actress Sharon Tate, had moved in. That afternoon, Shahrokh Hatami, Sharon Tate's personal photographer, had been shooting pictures of the actress when he spotted an oddly dressed man on the front lawn and confronted him. Manson explained he was looking for someone but Hatami cut him off, saying, "This is the Polanski residence. This is not the place. Maybe the people you want is back there," he gestured, pointing toward the guest house at the far end of the estate and telling Manson to take the dirt path on the other side of the lawn. As Manson stood there, Sharon Tate appeared in the doorway and asked Hatami what he wanted. Manson looked at her, turned, and walked away, doing as he had been directed in taking the pathway to the guest house only to find it empty. He returned a few hours later and confronted estate owner Rudi Altobelli, who was living in the guest house. Altobelli was in the shower when he heard his dogs bark; he was furious to find that Manson had let himself into the guest house. He told Manson that Melcher no longer lived at the estate and dismissed him. The next day, Altobelli joined Sharon on a flight to Europe. She had one question for him: "Did that creepy-looking guy come back there yesterday?"

ABOVE
Sharon Tate: perfect look with her husband, Ty, who was just killed

BELOW
Steven Pare: it was the wrong place at the wrong time; he ended up becoming the first victim on the last night of the Tate murders

“WOJCIECH STAGGERED OUT OF THE FRONT DOOR, COVERED IN BLOOD, AND COLLAPSED AT THE SIDE OF THE PORCH”

collapsed to the floor as Watson ran over and kicked him viciously in the face. Sharon and Abigail screamed.

"I want all the money you've got here!" Watson yelled at the screaming women. Abigail, terrified, said that she had money in her purse in her bedroom. Atkins guarded her with a knife as she walked back into her bedroom and grabbed her black canvas shoulder bag. She handed over \$72 - all of the cash she had - but Atkins refused the offered credit cards.

Back in the living room, Watson grabbed Abigail and tied her hands with a loose strand of the rope. He then looped the other end of the rope a few more times around Jay's neck as he lay dying on the floor, pulling on the free end, Watson forced Sharon and Abigail to stand on their toes to avoid being strangled. Suddenly, Jay began to stir. Hearing his moans, Watson stabbed him several times in the back and side with his double-edged knife, piercing his lungs.

"What are you going to do with us?" a terrified Sharon asked. "You're all going to die," Watson announced. Sharon, Abigail and Wojciech began to plead for their lives. As Wojciech struggled with his tied wrists, Watson looked at Atkins and ordered, "Kill him!" She ran over to the couch and raised her knife but hesitated for a second. He managed to free his hands and jumped

up, knocking Atkins onto the floor with him as they struggled. In this melee Atkins stabbed blindly, hitting Wojciech in the leg before he managed to break free by pulling her long hair and sending them both knocking against a trestle table and into an armchair where Atkins lost her knife; the police would later find it, blade up, lodged between the seat cushion and rear of the chair. "Blood was everywhere," Atkins remembered. "Above everything, I could hear Sharon Tate crying, sobbing."

Wojciech stumbled across the living room, toward the entrance hall and the open front door of the house as Atkins clung to him, beating at him with her fists. As Wojciech neared the door, Watson aimed his revolver and fired twice. The first bullet struck Wojciech just below his left armpit, lodging in his back; the second hit him in the thigh. Still, he kept on; when the gun jammed, Watson used it to beat Wojciech over the head 13 times. "I heard the crack of bone - Frykowski's skull," Atkins recalled. The wooden handle broke. "Help me, oh God, help me!" Wojciech screamed as he reached the open door.

Kneeling by the gate, Linda Kasabian heard "horrible sounds" coming from the house. A man shouted, "No, no!" and a woman was screaming. As she ran onto the lawn, Wojciech staggered out of the front



door covered in blood, and collapsed at the side of the porch as Watson caught up with him and repeatedly stabbed him.

Abigail got free and tried to escape. Krenwinkel cornered her in the living room, slashing out with a knife. Taller and stronger than Krenwinkel, Abigail grabbed the woman's hair and had her pinned against the wall when Watson ran back into the room. Seeing him, Abigail relaxed her grip on Krenwinkel, let her arms drop and cried out in resignation, "I give up, take me!" Watson plunged his knife into the right side of her abdomen so deeply that he exposed her intestines, with a cry Abigail collapsed.

On the porch, Wojciech struggled to his feet and began stumbling across the front lawn, screaming, "Help me! Oh God! Help me!" Watson heard him. Shouting at Atkins to watch Sharon, he ran out of the door and across the bloodstained front porch. Wojciech saw him coming, knife in his

“ABIGAIL LET HER ARMS DROP AND CRIED OUT IN RESIGNATION”

raised arm, "Oh God, not Stop! Stop! Oh God no, don't!" he screamed. Watson jumped Wojciech, forcing him to the ground and stabbing him repeatedly in the back, the chest, the arms, and the legs. "until my wrist disappeared in the mess," he later wrote.

Though seriously wounded, Abigail got up and staggered down the hall into Sharon's bedroom. Krenwinkel saw her and gave chase, catching Abigail just as she reached the French door opening to the swimming pool. Abigail cawed at the doors as Krenwinkel stabbed her in the back and neck. The hell mess somehow got the door open and ran toward the spiral fence before Krenwinkel's knife finally sent her tumbling onto the lawn.

"Stop! Stop!" Abigail begged as Krenwinkel continued to stab. "I'm already dead." Watson, standing over Wojciech's body, some 20 feet away, saw the struggle at the end of the lawn, jumped up and sprinted over to help Krenwinkel, held Abigail down as Watson slashed her face and stabbed her so many times that the blood turned her white nightgown red. Standing over Abigail's lifeless body, Watson spotted the lights of the guest house at the far end of the estate and ordered Krenwinkel to search it and kill anyone she found. Krenwinkel went off the doors

VICTIMS OF A MADMAN

BETWEEN 9 AND 10 AUGUST 1969 MANSON'S FAMILY CLAIMED SEVEN VICTIMS, LIVES CUT TRAGICALLY SHORT AND SOON OVERSHADOWED BY THE BIZARRE BAND OF KILLERS

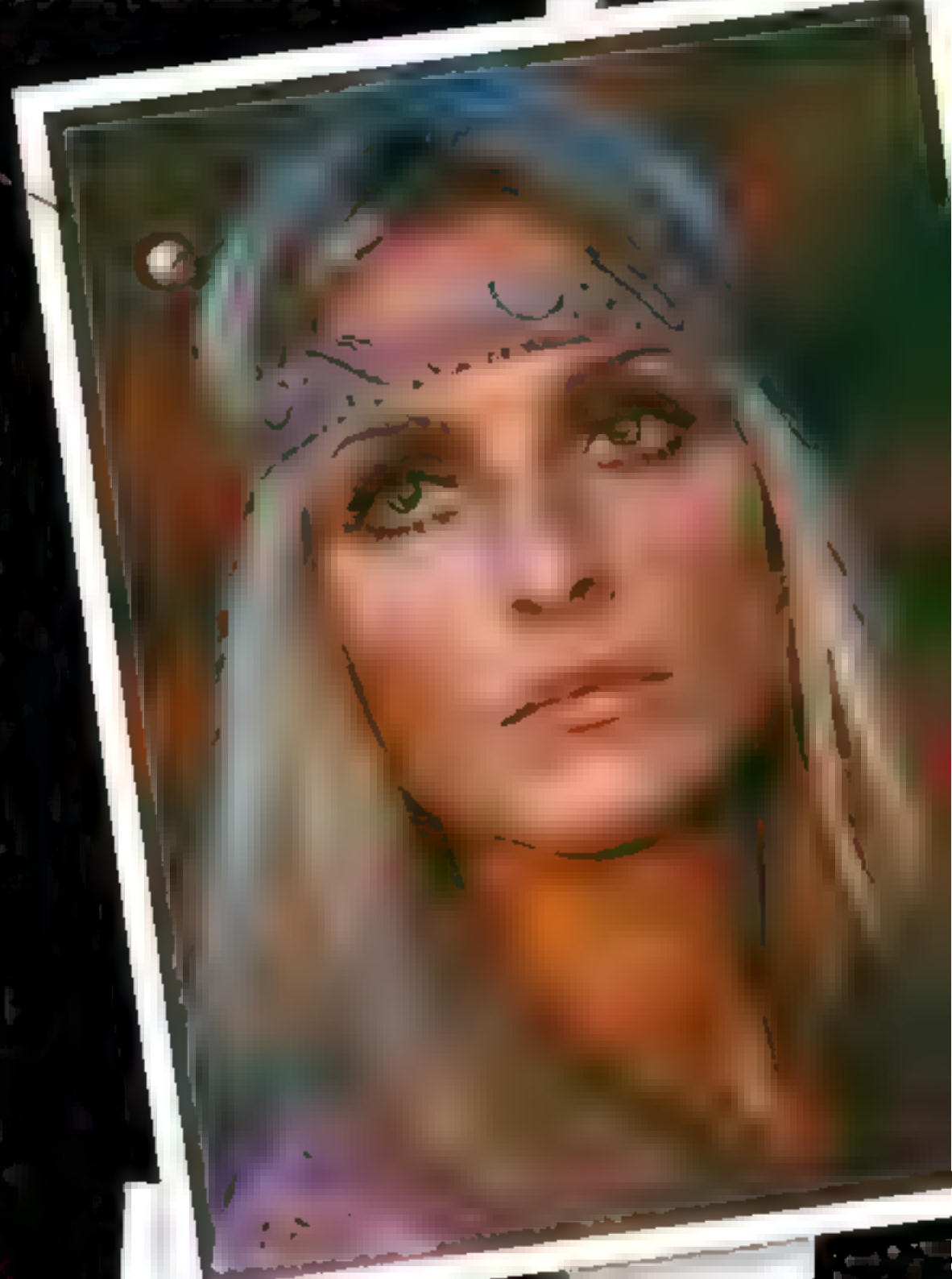
SHARON TATE

Born in 1943, Sharon Marie Tate had turned heads from the beginning, winning baby contests and beauty pageants. It was while attending school in Italy, where her father worked in army intelligence, that the 16-year-old landed her first role as an extra. Hazel-eyed and with honey-blond hair and a thin figure, she moved to Hollywood, winning a recurring role on the television show *The Beverly Hillsbillies*. Movie roles soon followed: *Eye of the Devil*, *The Fearless Vampire Killers*, *Don't Make Waves*, *The Wrecking Crew*, and the cult classic *Valley of the Dolls*. Little was demanded of her except that she look beautiful; her true strength, a genuine gift for comedy, was largely ignored. On 20 January 1968 she married Roman Polanski, famed director of *Repulsion* and the coming *Rosemary's Baby*, at an impromptu ceremony in London. The Polanskis were a glittering couple, very much at the centre of life in swinging London and in Hollywood, though Roman's roving eye caused Sharon much heartache. When she became pregnant in early 1969, she hoped that the baby would bring stability to the marriage. Sharon filmed her last movie, *12+1*, in Rome that spring before returning to Los Angeles. "My whole life has been decided by fate," she told a reporter that summer. "I know one thing - I've never planned anything that ever happened to me."

WOJCIECH FRYKOWSKI

Born in 1936, Wojciech Frykowski had met fellow Pole Roman Polanski in Lodz. Tall and handsome, Wojciech got the starring role in Polanski's short film *Mamouls* and the pair became friends. When Polanski defected, so did Frykowski. Wojciech expected Roman to find him a job in Hollywood as a screenwriter, but Frykowski's minimal English ended the idea. Roman once described him as a man of "small talent but immense charm." Frykowski tried his hand at poetry, studied English, and continued to hope to make a name for himself. He became a hanger-on, moving through Polanski's enchanted circles, dabbling in drugs and content to live on the generosity of others, like coffee heiress Abigail Folger, with whom he quickly began a romance.

FINAL
SUN
NEW
ACTRESS
SLAIN



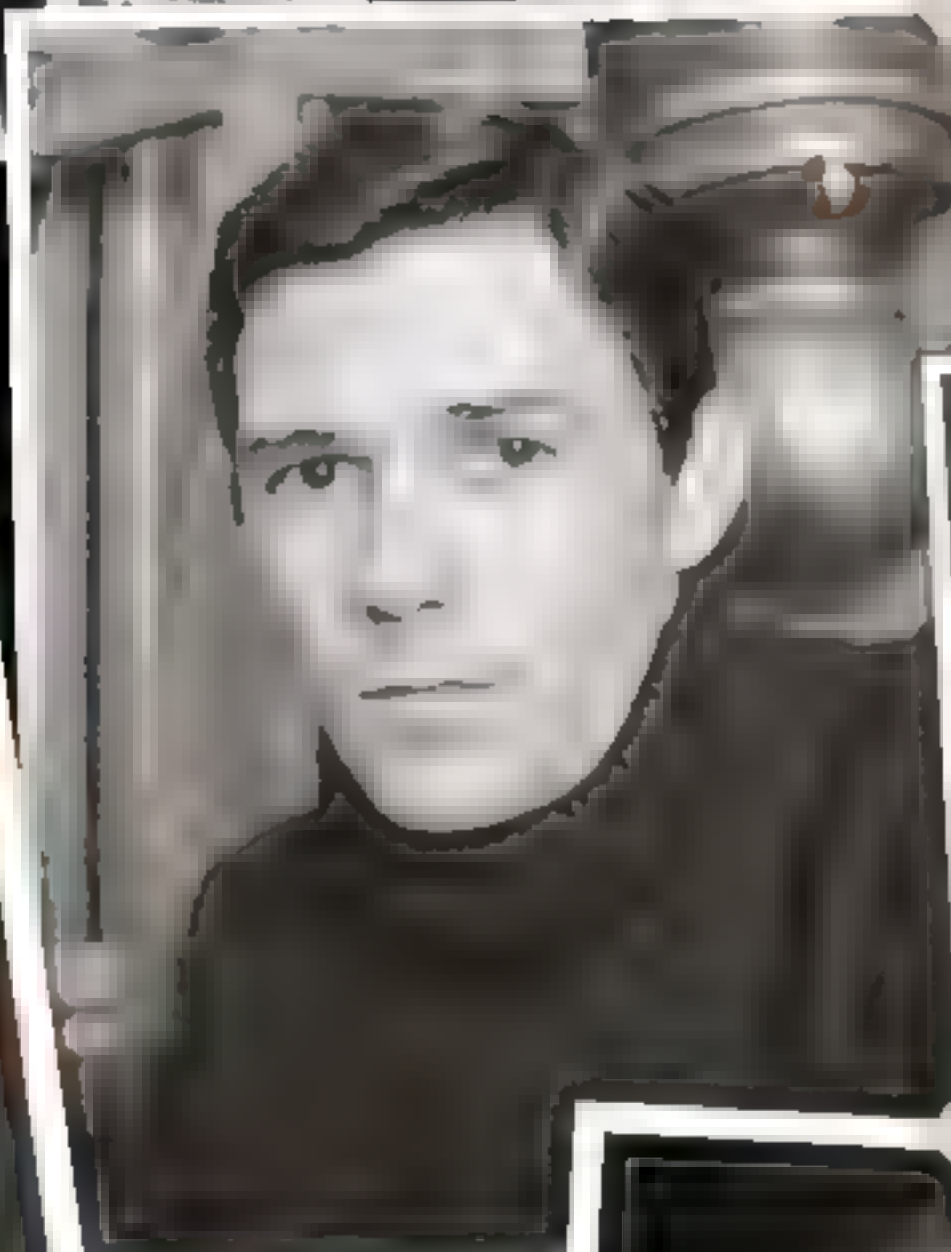
SS AND 4 IN RITUAL

Sharon
Tate
Among
Victims



ABIGAIL FOLGER

Born in 1943, Abigail Folger, called Gobble by her friends, had grown up in privilege as heiress to the family's coffee fortune. Yet she cared deeply about social injustice and used her fortune to fund worthy causes, including the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic in San Francisco, Democratic politics in Los Angeles, and racial integration. Her year-long relationship with Frykowski was uneasy. Like Sharon Tate, she found herself dominated and dictated to by a strong-willed Polish émigré with a roving eye. By August 1969 she confessed to her therapist that she hoped to break free of Frykowski and reclaim her life.



JAY SEBRING

Born Thomas Kummer in 1933, Jay Sebring changed his name when he came to Hollywood. Stylish, witty, and with a love of fast cars, he began to make a name for himself as one of the first celebrity hair stylists. He opened his own salon and counted Kirk Douglas, Warren Beatty, Steve McQueen, Paul Newman and Jim Morrison of The Doors as regular customers. He had met Sharon Tate in 1964 and the couple were engaged until she fell in love with Polanski; thereafter, Jay remained a devoted friend and most assumed that he was still in love with the actress. On the night that he died, he was still wearing Sharon's high school class ring.



STEVEN PARENT

Eighteen-year-old Steven Parent had the misfortune of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. In July 1969 the recent high school graduate, who worked two jobs to save money for college, had picked up a hitchhiking William Garretson, the young caretaker at 10050 Cielo Drive and delivered him to the estate. Garretson told him to come back any time. Parent returned just before midnight on 8 August, hoping to sell Garretson a clock radio.



LENO LABIANCA

Born in 1925 to Italian immigrants, Leno LaBianca owned the successful Gateway Market chain in Los Angeles. Leno had a taste for fast horses, a passion for gambling, and an interest in rare coins. After divorcing his first wife, he'd married Rosemary Struthers and moved her and her young son Frank into a Spanish-style house on Waverly Drive in the Los Feliz district. By August of 1969, though, Leno was under increasing pressure over financial irregularities at Gateway and his gambling debts.



ROSEMARY LABIANCA

Born in 1929, dark-haired Rosemary Struthers first met Leno LaBianca while working as a hostess at the Los Feliz Inn. She had two children, including one from an extra-marital affair, but Leno was undeterred and the couple married. Rosemary did well in the stock market, and operated a successful dress shop, but by August 1969 she was worried: someone had broken into their house on Waverly Drive several times, and both she and Leno wanted to sell it and move away quickly.

were locked, and she remembers pausing. "I knew this is wrong. It was like an echo from way back that said, 'Wait a minute, this has finally gone into total madness'"

Only Sharon Tate remained alive. Atkins had forced her on to the couch, the rope was still looped round her neck over the beam and Atkins held Sharon's arms as she pleaded for her life. "Please don't kill me! Please don't kill me! I don't want to die! I want to live! I want to have my baby! I want to have my baby!" But Atkins, who had left her own ten-month-old son back at Spahn Ranch, showed no mercy.

"Look, bitch," she told Sharon, "I don't care about you. I don't care if you're going to have a baby! You had better be ready. You're going to die, and I don't feel anything about it." Atkins later complained that Sharon had reminded her of "a store mannequin" who sounded "like an IBM machine. She kept begging and pleading and pleading and begging, and I got sick of listening to her."

His black clothes now shining with blood, Watson re-entered the living room. Sharon again begged for her life, but Watson told her to shut up. She then asked them to take her with them when they left: they could keep her alive until she gave birth and they could then kill her. Watson said

BELOW

Deputy district attorney Vincent Bugliosi displays a large photograph of the nylon rope found around the necks of Sharon Tate and Jay Sebring.

“ATKINS, WHO HAD LEFT HER OWN TEN-MONTH-OLD SON BACK AT SPAHN RANCH, SHOWED NO MERCY”

nothing. Finally, realising she was about to die, Sharon begged the killers to cut the baby from her and save its life. She was, Atkins remembered, "out of her mind."

Watson ordered Atkins to kill Sharon when she hesitated he lunged forward, stabbing into her breast and then her arm as she tried to ward off the blows. Atkins struggled to hold her. Sharon seems to have tried to protect her stomach by turning away and thrusting it against the couch, this left her back exposed to Watson's knife which came down eight times, piercing her lungs and chipping her ribs. She slumped. Atkins later bragged that she, too, had joined in the attack. "It felt so good the first time I stabbed her," she told a cellmate, "and when she screamed at me it did something to me, sent a rush through me, and I stabbed her again. I just kept stabbing her until she stopped screaming. It was just like going into nothing, going into air. It's like a sexual release. Especially when you see the blood spurting out. It's better than a climax."

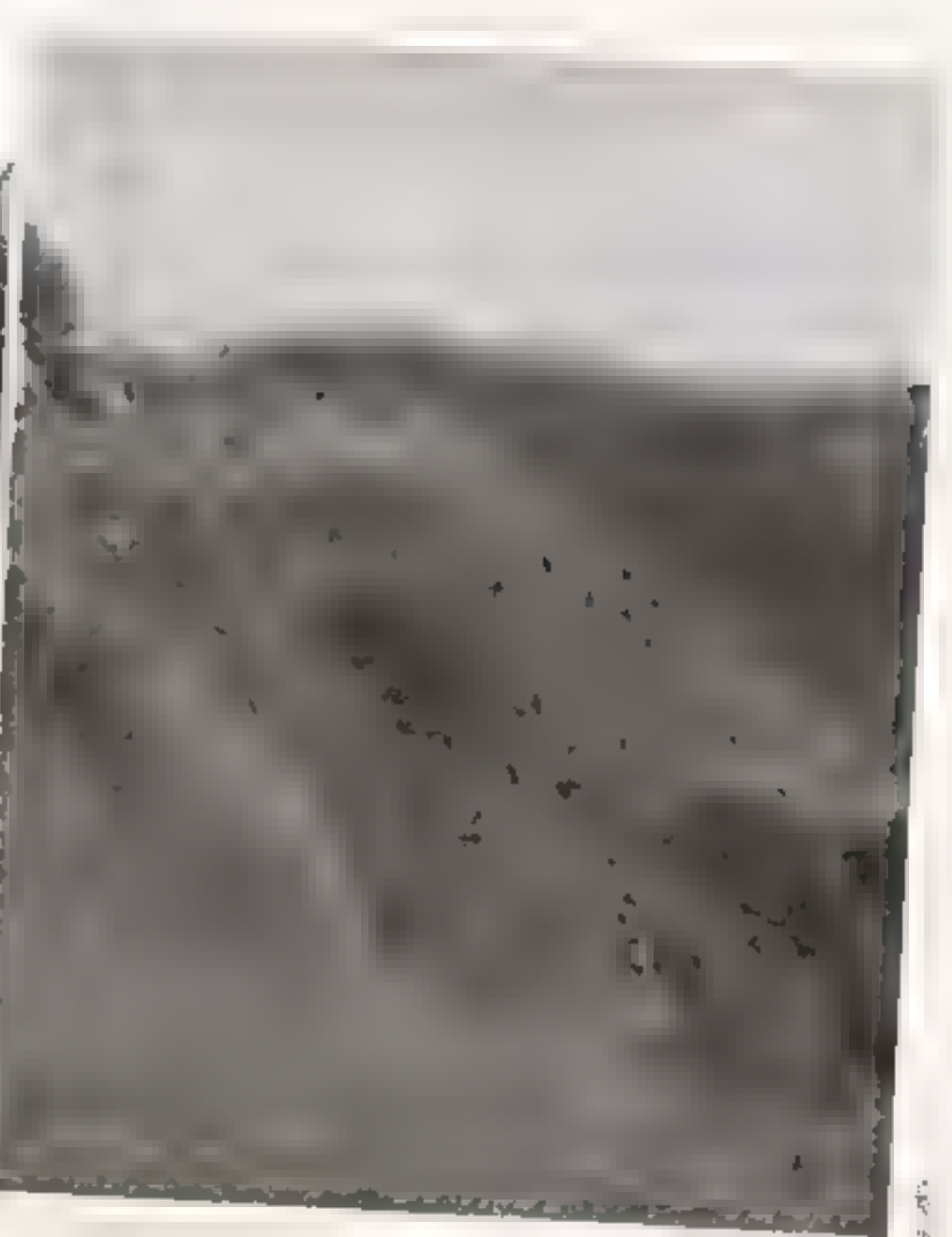
After 16 wounds, Sharon crumpled to the floor, moaning, "Mother, mother!" as she died. Atkins saw that she had blood on her hands. She lifted her fingers and licked it off. "To taste death and yet give life," she told a friend. "Wow, what a trip!" The killers left the house; they were on the driveway when Watson turned to Atkins and told her to go back to the house and leave a message in blood. "Write something that will shock the world," he ordered.

Atkins entered the now silent, bloody house, grabbed the beige towel that she had used to tie Wojciech's hands, and knelt beside Sharon's body. "Her hair was covering her face and there were sounds coming from her body like blood flowing into the body out of the heart." She touched the towel to Sharon's chest, went out onto the front porch, knelt in front of the white Dutch door and wrote "PIG" in blood on the bottom half before flinging the bloody towel back into the living room. As the killers pulled away they left behind five dead bodies disfigured by seven gunshots, beatings, and 104 stab wounds. "I felt so elated," Atkins recalled, "tired, but at peace with myself."

The killers first learned the identities of their victims Saturday afternoon, when they watched a live news television broadcast at Spahn Ranch. There were giggles and laughs as the gruesome details were recounted. Watson bragged about how much fun he'd had the previous night. But Manson was agitated. "Last night was too messy," he told his followers. "This time I'm going to show you how to do it." He again told Watson, Atkins, Krenwinkel and Kasabian to get a change of clothing and their knives, and also picked Steve Grogan and Leslie Van Houten to join them. "I felt that what we were doing was a mission that needed to be done," Van Houten said. "I wanted to go. I knew that people would die."

This time Manson went along. Kasabian drove aimlessly; once, they stopped at a church when Manson said he wanted to go inside and kill the priest on the altar, but the door was locked. He then wanted to kill the driver of a car waiting next to them at a traffic light, but the signal changed before he could do so. He looked in the windows of several houses but always came back. But then, his directions became specific: a year earlier, he and some of the Family had





done drugs at a house on Waverly Drive in the Los Feliz district. Its neighbour was isolated, set back atop a high lawn, and was likely owned by someone wealthy.

The house, in fact, belonged to Leno LaBianca, owner of the Gateway Market chain in Los Angeles. Leno and his second wife Rosemary had just returned an hour earlier from a holiday at Lake Isabella. It was 1.30am on Sunday 10 August when Manson and Watson walked into the house through an open terrace door. Leno, in his pyjamas, had dozed off on the living room couch but Manson prodded him awake. "Who are you? What do you want?" Leno asked.

"We're not going to hurt you," Manson assured him. "Just relax. Don't be afraid." Manson took a leather cord from around his neck and told Watson to tie Leno's hands behind his back while he himself searched the house. Manson found Rosemary in the bedroom, after letting her slip a dress over her nightgown, he led her into the living room and tied her hands. He then left before he did so, he pulled Watson aside and whispered, "Make sure the girls get to do some of it, both of them."

Back at the car, Manson told Krenwinkel and Van Houten to join Watson inside the residence. "Go do what Tex says," he told them. "Don't let them know that you are going to kill them." With that, Manson got back into the car and, together with Kasabian, Atkins and Grogan, drove off into the night.

Inside the LaBianca house, Watson told Krenwinkel and Van Houten to take Rosemary back into the bedroom. There, they stripped the pillows of their cases, one

ABOVE

The LaBianca house on Waverly Drive in the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles after the gruesome murders were discovered.

ABOVE RIGHT

Police search a hillside off Mulholland Drive in Hollywood Hills for evidence left by the deadly assassins.

went over Rosemary's

head, kept in place when Watson took a lamp from a table, unplugged it, and wrapped the cord around her neck. He took the other pillowcase to the living room and did the same thing with Leno.

No one said anything, but in the silence Leno could hear Krenwinkel and Van Houten rattling through the kitchen drawers, looking for weapons. Hearing this, Leno realised what was about to happen and screamed, "You're going to kill us, aren't you?" Watson told him to shut up, but Rosemary heard his cries and took them up. Watson told Krenwinkel and Van Houten to go and keep her quiet while he turned on the helpless Leno. He stabbed the struggling man repeatedly in the stomach and chest. "Don't stab me anymore!" Leno moaned. "I'm dead! I'm dead!" Watson took no notice. He stabbed Leno in the throat so violently that he broke off the blade of the steak knife he was using, leaving it lodged in Leno's windpipe. To finish the job, he grabbed a double-lined carving fork from the kitchen and stabbed Leno in the stomach over and over again.

Rosemary LaBianca, hearing her husband's screams - "horrible, guttural sounds" in the words of Van Houten - began to struggle with the women. "What are you doing to my husband?" she yelled. Van Houten tried to hold her down while Krenwinkel stabbed. The first blow hit Rosemary's collarbone and bent the knife. As Rosemary continued to struggle and scream, Krenwinkel ran to get Watson. When he entered, he found that Rosemary had escaped Van Houten's grip, head still

covered by the pillowcase.

she had backed into a corner of the room, swinging the lamp blindly in a futile attempt to ward off the killers. Watson managed to stab her, and continued to do so as she fell to the floor. Krenwinkel helped, but Van Houten turned away. Finally Watson grabbed her, handed her a knife, led her back to the bedroom, and commanded, "Do something." She knelt down and stabbed Rosemary numerous times in the lower back. She later admitted that she had no idea if Rosemary had been alive or dead at the time. Rosemary's autopsy revealed that one of the wounds in her lower back had been fatal, administered while she was still alive.

This time the killers were in no hurry to leave. Krenwinkel spotted the double-tined carving fork on the floor next to Leno's body, picked it up, and thrust it into his exposed stomach. Giving it a twang, she watched it wobble back and forth, fascinated. Watson took a knife and carved the word 'WAR' into Leno's stomach. Krenwinkel dipped some paper in the blood on the walls of the living room; she wrote 'RISE' and 'DEATH TO PIGS' and a misspelled 'HEALTER SKELTER' on the refrigerator doors. The trio showered together, helped themselves to snacks from the refrigerator, and fed the LaBiancas' dogs before finally leaving at dawn to hitchhike back to Spahn Ranch. The bodies would not be discovered until late that night when Rosemary's worried son Frank and daughter Suzan entered the silent, bloody house on Waverly Drive.

SLAUGHTER IN BEVERLY HILLS

THE ESTATE AT 10050 CIELO DRIVE HAD ONCE SEEMED A HAVEN FROM THE WORLD; ITS ISOLATION LEFT ITS INHABITANTS VULNERABLE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 9 AUGUST 1969



1 THE FIRST VICTIM

After visiting caretaker William Garretson in the guest house at the far end of the estate, Steven Parent was climbing into his car when he saw the killers entering the grounds. He backed up so fast that he broke a fence, but four bullets prevented him from reaching the front gate.

2 A FUTILE FIGHT TOWARD FREEDOM

Both Wojciech Frykowski and Abigail Foster managed to temporarily escape the killers in the house and ran toward the split-rail fence separating the front lawn from the steep hillside. Slowed by their wounds, they stumbled and fell under the upraised knives of Watson and Krenwinkel.



IN DESPERATION, SHARON ASKED THAT THEY CUT THE BABY FROM HER STOMACH AND SAVE IT



3 A PLEA FOR MERCY

Sharon Tate repeatedly begged the killers to spare the life of her unborn baby but her pleas went unanswered. She then asked them to take her with him and hold her hostage saying that they could kill her after she gave birth. Finally, in desperation, she asked that they cut the baby from her stomach and save it. But the killers had no mercy and slaughtered the pregnant actress.



4 A 'WITCHY' SIGN

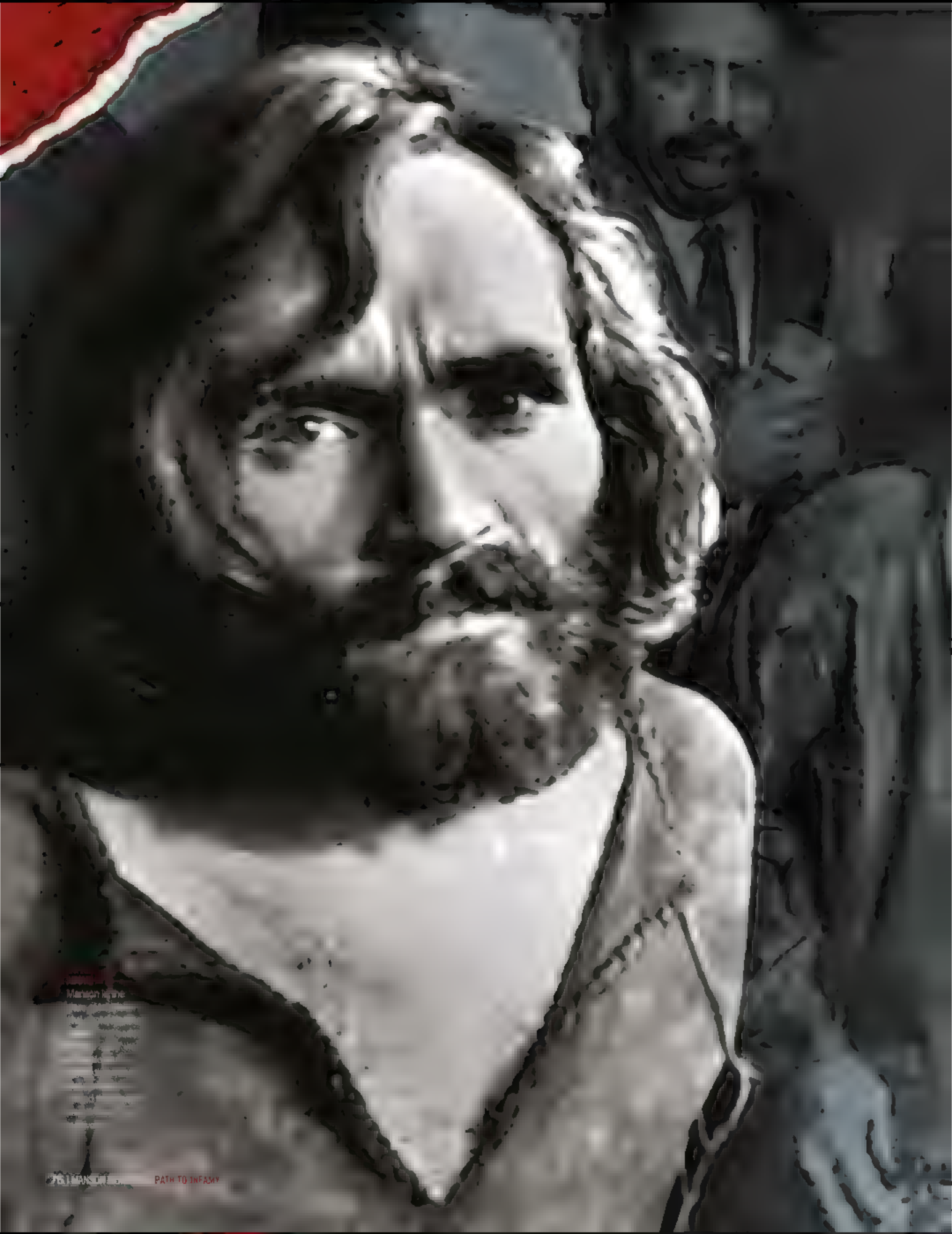
Heeding Manson's instructions, Susan Atkins dropped a towel in Sharon Tate's blood. At Gary Hinman's house she had written 'POLITICAL PIGGY' in blood on the wall. Now, perhaps hoping to link the two crimes and help free Beauséjour, she knelt down and scrawled 'PIG' on the front door of the house at 10050 Cleo Drive.



5 THE SOLE SURVIVOR

Caretaker William Garretson was asleep in the guest house at the far end of the estate when armed police broke through his door on the morning of Saturday 9 August. He was arrested on suspicion that he had committed the murders, but after a polygraph examination and further questioning, police released him and the unlucky young man returned to his native Ohio.

1



Marion Levine

THE PEOPLE VS CHALLER
 MANION: PART 1

PUPPET MASTER

IMBUED WITH THE SELF-BELIEF OF A ROCK STAR, THIS MURDEROUS CULT LEADER THOUGHT HE WAS ABOVE THE COURTS, AND IF NOT FOR A LAST-MINUTE WITNESS, CHARLES MANSON MAY STILL HAVE BEEN FREE TODAY

BY MARTYN CONTERIO

In the devil and I'm here to do the devil's business," Tex Watson announced. A sleepy-headed Wojciech Frykowski had woken up on a living room couch at 10050 Cielo Drive, the rented Hollywood home of movie director Roman Polanski and his heavily pregnant wife, Sharon Tate, to find a man standing over him, declaring his sinister beliefs. When Frykowski attempted to inquire as to what exactly was going on, Watson - armed with his .22 calibre High Standard Longhorn

revolver - issued a death threat. Frykowski buttoned his lip and realised quickly enough that he, along with and the rest of the house's occupants, was in big trouble.

That date, 9 August 1969, is written in human blood. Fifty years on, details of that horrific night cause revulsion, the senselessness of the murders defining a specific existentialist terror - that anybody at any time can be the victim of deranged individuals. The brutality of the Tate-LaBianca homicides is one thing, the sheer

cold-bloodedness is another. "Please let me go, all I want to do is have my baby," eight-months pregnant Sharon Tate cried. Susan Atkins, one of her killers, responded: "Woman, I have no mercy for you."

Charles Manson used sex, drugs and counterculture spiel to warp the easily persuaded minds of Charles "Tex" Watson, Patricia Krenwinkel, Leslie Van Houten, Steve Grogan, Bruce Davis, Susan Atkins and Linda Kasabian (who turned out to be more resilient than the others to Manson's

brainwashing methods). All were searching for something, be it adventure, spiritual uplift or rebellion against society. They craved something to fill the holes in their hearts or personalities. They got Charles Manson instead.

"If you're going to San Francisco, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair," Scott McKenzie's classic hippie ditty advised. But it was in San Francisco, Flower Power Central, where ex-con and aspiring guru Charles Manson learned to crawl, picking up his first collection of followers in the city and environs (he met Mary Brunner, a shy librarian in Berkeley, just across the bay).

Yet there was a darker side to the peace, love and dope shenanigans going on in Haight-Ashbury, especially when the 'Big H' began to flood the streets. One musician quoted in Jeff Gurn's 2013 Manson biography told it straight. "Haight Street smelled like piss." "All the people we thought were running around with flowers in their hair were now lying around with needles stuck in their neck."

Manson's path to cult leader began one day when some dude walked up to him and handed the ex-con a flower. The kind-hearted gesture knocked Manson for six and he began to take a great interest in the speakers and gurus who spoke on street corners about new ways of living.

Celebrity life in LA in the mid-to-late 1960s embraced the counterculture hard. Many famous people had an open-house policy, musical artists and film industry types hung out with all kinds of folk in their palatial homes above Hollywood, often picking up dates and hangers-on from bars and clubs along Sunset Strip, taking them back to their pads for parties that could last for days on end. For the rich and famous, the era of free love, drug experimentation and casting off 1950s conservatism was electrifying. Then came Charles Manson. With a cult of hot young waifs and pliable men eager to follow his every command, the 5-foot-two-inch scruffbag preached love and rejected the vulgarities of the Western consumerist society. It was all a sham. Manson was the era's ultimate LSD trip gone wrong, and the subsequent trial was its frightening comedown.

"The murders happened at a very pivotal and dynamic time in the United States," Dr Scott Bonn told us. "It was the beginning of the Vietnam War and political unrest, student movements, the age of hippies and the peace movement out in California. The murders were kind of a counterpoint to all that. Here was a group which appeared to be devoted to evil and the destruction of the world. It's a stark contrast to the peace



movement at that time, so I think it was a really powerful moment in the evolution of the United States. Crimes of that nature and that horrific would have had an impact at any time, but given the time and place [in history] that it happened, it had a greater impact."

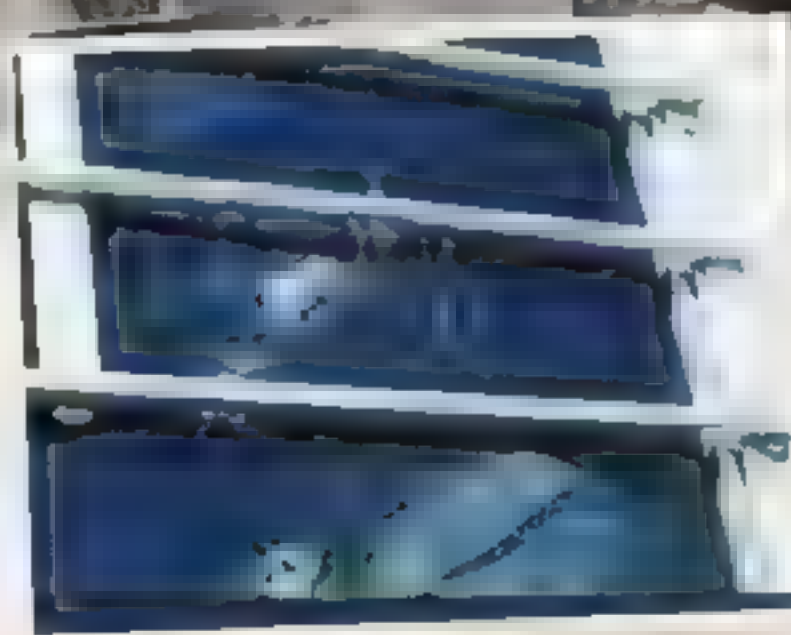
OCTOBER 1969 THE FAMILY ROUNDED UP

"Hi," the diminutive man in a Davy Crockett-type buckskin suit said, as he crawled out from a tiny cabinet space in a house on the Barker Ranch. His air of calm impressed the arresting officers, who'd threatened to gun him down if he made "one false move." But Charles Manson's incredibly tranquil response to the raid at Barker Ranch on 12 October 1969 was all an arrogant front. He thought the arrest would come to nothing and he'd be released soon enough from his cell in Independence, California. Hedging a bet that the shuttucker deputies responsible for his current predicament were racist, Manson told them about the race war

Aaron Slowitz and Vincent Bugliosi, prosecuting attorneys, pose with an aerial shot of the LaBianca house in the Los Feliz neighbourhood, for the press.

RIGHT

11 December 1969: Manson, in his buckskin suit made for him by Family members, leaving the Hall of Justice under armed guard on a police bus. He ignores the camera.



a brew'n'—an event he dubbed 'Helter Skelter'—and thought it best they uncuff the irons. Run for the hills, he told them. They weren't impressed one iota.

Manson's arrest was the beginning of a new round of drama and the end of his freedom in the outside world. First of all, the police in Inyo County hadn't a clue the man before them was responsible for orchestrating murder and mayhem back in LA. The cops thought they were busting a bunch of long-hairs for grand theft auto. Having become aware of their presence in the area, a check on vehicle registrations revealed that several cars on the property were stolen. At the jailhouse, Manson was booked in as "MANSON, CHARLIE M., AKA

LEADER

CHARLES MANSON
"I RUN THE
UNIVERSITY"

"I RUN THE UNDERWORLD... I DECIDE WHO DOES WHAT AND WHERE THEY DO IT AT"

TEX WATSON

"I AINT SAYING MANSON MADE ME DO IT WE WERE ALL IN THE DEVIL."

WING MEN

BRUCE DAVIS

"I WAS JUST
LIVING ON
DRUGS AND ROCK
'N' ROLL."

MAJOR ACCOMPLICES

SUSAN ATKINS

- THAT'S WHEN FELT HE MIGHT BE JESUS CHRIST"

LINDA KASARIAN
-TISNA-

"I SAW A
WOMAN IN A
WHITE DRESS.
SHE HAD BLOOD
ALL OVER."

TRICIA KRENWINE

"I WANTED TO
PLEASE I WANTED
TO. ONE

7

DIDN'T
TALK AGAINST
CHARLIE. I THOUGHT
HE'S A DECENT
MAN.

MINOR ACCOMPLICES

SANDRA SUNDY
-YOU'D

**-YOU'D
BETTER LET
MUMSON TALK
OR YOU'LL
DIE**

FOR
EACH TO

THEM TO
PUT IT ALL ON
MANSON IS
CRIMINAL."

THE RE

THE
WIRE 12 OF
US APOSTLES
AND CHARLES

AND DO SOME
JILTING

JESUS CHRIST GOD." And he declared, "Don't you know who you're crucifying?"

Born understands that Manson's outlandish statements and actions were motivated by a desire for control, recognition as an exceptional individual, and hunger for fame. Manson's character and personality, his background, here's a guy who was not particularly educated, but he was very smart, an intelligent individual. He earned the hard way from the school of hard knocks. do believe Manson had delusions of grandeur from an early age. He believed he was destined for greatness in some way. Throughout his life he exhibited characteristic paranoia. Sometimes he would say he was God, other times Satan.

RIGHT
New York's *Early*
News, 3 December
1969: The mix of
the gun, gore,
grisly murders and
young women led
the media frenzy
to reports Manson
referred to himself
as "Satan."

DAILY NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

84

LINK 11 MURDERS TO TATE KOOKS



'Satan': Leader of a Weird Cult

'Satan': Leader of a violent

In a classic interview with Geraldo Rivera, Manson responded to the question: 'I've heard you call yourself God and other times the Devil, which is it?' Manson responded: 'What's the difference? They're both the same. It's that larger than life [persona] and I think he envisioned himself that way. Those delusions of grandeur and paranoia fuelled him to aspire to this. *Helter Skelter*'. He was determined, in some way, he was going to be famous. If not as a great songwriter, then the world was going to remember him in some way."

At an earlier raid on the Barker place on 10 October, while Manson was still in LA cadging money from contacts, two young followers - Kitty Lutesinger and Stephanie Schram, who'd escaped the Family but had become confused in making their bid for freedom under the cover of night, appeared from bushes and asked to be taken into protective custody. Lutesinger was the ex-girlfriend of Bobby Beausoleil, who had been her motivation for joining Manson. Beausoleil, who was never an official member of the Family, was currently banged up on murder charges relating to the killing of Gary Hinman, a music teacher and acquaintance of Manson's. Lutesinger learned from her mother back in LA that the police wanted to talk to her about Beausoleil. Lutesinger agreed to cooperate with investigators and she told them what Susan Atkins had confided: that Beausoleil murdered Hinman on Manson's orders. But how did she know this? Well, she was there and she took part. This pricked the ears of the LAPD, but Atkins was about to unwittingly divulge much, much more.

NOV/DEC 1969

SUSAN ATKINS CONFESSES

Arrested with the others at the Barker Ranch, Susan Atkins was transferred from Independence, CA to the Sybil Brand Institute in LA. Assigned work detail, the laxative young woman befriended a couple of fellow inmates. Atkins' bunkmate Veronica Ronnie Howard, and inmate Virginia Graham were taken aback by her cheery demeanour, yet recoiled at her gruesome stories. As she sat idly in the jail's common room, Atkins discussed all sorts. Neither Howard nor Graham could have expected to play crucial bit parts in one of the trials of the century when they asked the question: "What are you in for?"

Atkins insisted on being called Sadie Mae Gutz, even while inside, which led to the occupants of Dormitory 8000, as Vincent Bugliosi detailed in his bestseller *Helter Skelter* (1974), to calling her 'Crazy Sadie'. Her inappropriate manner - laughing,



CREEPY CRAWLERS

PRESENTED AS A WAY OF DESTABILISING UNSUSPECTING SUBURBANITES, MANSON'S 'CREEPY-CRAWLING' GAME HAD A DARKER PURPOSE

Vincent Bugliosi saw Manson's funny game of breaking and entering properties, rearranging furniture or crapping on carpets, described by family member Susan Atkins as 'creepy-crawling', as the guys running dress rehearsals for subsequent murders. They hit homes around the Spahn Ranch, in San Fernando neighbourhoods such as Topanga, Canoga Park, Chatsworth. One night-time excursion targeted the Bel Air home of John and Michelle Phillips of the pop group The Mamas and the Papas.

Manson used creepy-crawling exercises as tests. Who among them was ready to carry out his orders without ever questioning their logic or purpose? An expert in manipulation, Manson liked certain individuals to believe they were second-in-command. He played Bruce Davis and Tex Watson against each other. Mary Brunner, the first 'disciple', for want of a better word, always believed she was Manson's favourite girl. This opinion was furth-

sing, talking about a guy she knew like he was Jesus Christ reborn - pegged her as an odd duck. But when Atkins proffered more details about the murders and Manson, how he was going to lead them to a hole in the ground near Death Valley and wait out the race war that was coming, Howard and Graham were freaked out. Upon hearing her blabber on about "the one in Benedict Canyon" the pair decided to act, though it took a great amount of guts, given the prison code about snitching. "Snitches end up with stitches." But informing on Atkins might well have provided them with leverage when it came to their own trials.

Atkins was very different from other Manson Family true believers. Her socio-economic background and life story were closer to Charles's than the clean-cut lives of many others in the group. Most of the girls were barely out of their teens or were young adults who should have been going to college or out there in the world enjoying themselves. Instead, Charles's angels were really his puppets of death and destruction. Susan was one of Manson's most devout followers but, for a period, turned against





LEFT
Manson is escorted by law enforcement officials following his arraignment on conspiracy murder charges

BELOW LEFT
Manson, sat with public defender Frederick Schaefer. One of Manson's tactics to prolong or delay the trial was to tell the judge his counsel wasn't adequately representing him

BELOW RIGHT
Atkins, Krenwinkel and van Houten proceed to a hearing, holding hands in solidarity and singing. Their bizarre, fanatical behaviour worked against them in the eyes of the public and prosecutors

Charles and the Family, offering to testify before a Grand Jury. Bonn puts the fevered interest and shock at the crimes directly in relation to the inclusion of the girls - many of whom were attractive and photogenic. Scott Bonn thinks the major cultural shock factor stemmed from this reversal. Tex Watson, too, was described as a good kid who'd lost his way to drugs while at college. When arrested in his hometown of McKinney, Texas, months after the killing spree, many in his neighbourhood - friends he'd grown up with and members of the Watson clan - were completely stunned. The town sheriff was adamant that Watson's arrest was a mix up.

Bonn attributed this twist in the tale - the young women as psycho killers - as a major factor in its infamy. "These were very pretty, young girls and how could they possibly be responsible for committing these terrible crimes? It's a contradiction. We are taught that young girls are typically the victims. So, these young girls committing unspeakable acts was shocking and confounding to the public. And





you had their bizarre behaviour in court, shaving their heads and all of that"

Prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi was granted permission to listen to Susan's confession tape on 3 December 1969. Bugliosi was chilled to the core as Atkins related her recollections of the murders like she was "reciting what she did that day in school."

In a meeting the next day, it was decided among the prosecutors and defence team that Atkins' information was "vital to law enforcement" and the People would not seek the death penalty against her in the Hinman, Tate or LaBianca murders "on the condition that she provided testimony to a Grand Jury. So far Atkins had cooperated fully with the lawyers. The sweetener in the deal, however, was that if the co-conspirator changed her mind, the Grand Jury testimony would be inadmissible in court. Bugliosi and his team were given a bitter pill to swallow, knowing Atkins' representative Richard CabeJero, had wrangled for his client an exceedingly good deal.

By now the LAPD and Bugliosi were starting to ascertain the dynamics of the Family, its individual members, alliances with the Straight Satans (a biker group and drug gang), the Spahn Ranch setup

and, most of all, the mystery man who orchestrated the entire show. Manson (still locked up in Independence) was also starting to understand his Helter Skelter plot had been wrecked, and the Family and certain individuals were (in his mind) conspiring against him. These things fed his paranoia and delusions. Controlling others was his forte. Susan was out of his grasp and talking to The Man. He hadn't a clue where Tex Watson was (he was lying low in Texas) nor Patricia (in Alabama) or Linda Kasabian (she'd legged it after the murders and was in New Hampshire, where she confessed all to her mother). "I think that Manson no doubt resented what he perceived as betrayal by the others. In his mind, he was the Christ who was betrayed by Judas," Scott Bonn explained.

KASABIAN'S COMMUNITY DEAL

At first, Susan Atkins was treated like the lynchpin to the whole sorry affair. Without her, charges against Charles Manson and Linda Kasabian were so perilously weak that they might walk. Bugliosi believed Atkins was telling the truth in her testimony, with a few crucial omissions

“ IN HIS [MANSON'S] MIND, HE WAS THE CHRIST WHO WAS BETRAYED BY JUDAS ”

ABOVE Manson sits in "court". He loved the camera, a witness' attention and wished to prolong the trial for as long as possible. He hadn't become famous. Manson was infamous.

to lessen her guilt. The lawyer was not at all shocked when, on 11 May 1970, Atkins signed off on what was a repudiation of her Grand Jury testimony. Bugliosi was now free to pursue the ultimate sentence against Atkins. The gas chamber loomed.

Atkins was now firmly back in the Manson Family fold and determined to follow his every command. Manson had underlings visit Susan, Leslie Van Houten and Patricia Krenwinkel daily, part of a scheme to keep them together, keep them brainwashed. The group shaved their heads, carved Xs into their foreheads, while outside court, members of the Family caused disruptions or protested. How could the pigs' send their messiah to prison?

Linda Kasabian was a 20-year-old mum when she fell into the Manson fold in the summer of 1969. She wasn't around long, but she was there for crucial events relating to the killing spree and would be the star witness for the prosecution down the line.



She fled after the killings, sickened by Manson's actions, but most of all, Kasabian took a limited role in the Tate murders. Of the murder gang - Leslie Van Houten, Patricia Krenwinkel, Tex Watson, Susan Atkins - Kasabian's moral compass was never truly broken by the Jesus wannabe. When Manson involved Kasabian in his inner circle he made a big mistake.

As media coverage intensified, the net closed in on Kasabian. She gave herself up and returned to California. The expression of remorse was sincere - at the point in time she was the only one to talk about feeling guilty, while the others repeated their Manson-taught mantras. She longed to get everything off her chest, whether it meant spending the rest of her life in prison or facing the death penalty. Her lawyer, Gary Fleischman, insisted Kasabian say nothing until the District Attorney's office presented an immunity bargain. In return, she would turn state's evidence. Fleischman's move was deemed very controversial, but Kasabian was far more reliable than Atkins. But how had Kasabian found herself in the grip of the notorious Charles Manson?

Kasabian's husband, Bob, wished for a second chance with his young wife

ABOVE

Linda Kasabian, the only witness for the prosecution, with Atkins, who might admit guilt. It was Kasabian's testimony that condemned Manson and the others.

and invited her out to LA. A friend of Bob's, Charles Melton, had inherited a lot of dough, and had a grand adventure planned: driving down to Tierra del Fuego, Chile, right at the tip of South America, purchasing a boat and sailing around the world. Bob had invited his wife and their daughter, Tanva, for the ride.

The couple failed to put aside their differences. Then, one unfortunate day, a Manson Family member, Catherine Share, turned up at Melton's and told Linda about Manson and the commune they'd founded at the Spahn Ranch. Intrigued by Share, Kasabian and Tanva left Bob and moved to Spahn where the brainwashing began, though not with Manson, but Tex Watson. Her indoctrination began with the breaking of the moral code. She was fed mantras like "everything is permissible", "right and wrong are nothing but constructs of the mind", "there is no such thing as personal possessions". Watson then had sex with Kasabian and she experienced "the death of the ego".

It seems incredible that Kasabian was pushed to fleece Melton of his inheritance money almost immediately. She stole \$5,000 from his trailer and handed it

over to the Family. When she finally met Manson, he zeroed in on her daddy issues and spun his dangerous philosophical aphorisms such as "no sense makes sense" and "never ask why". Kasabian fell in hard with the Family, yet unlike the hardcore members, she never quite believed the stuff Manson spouted. While told her sexual encounter and the feeling she had afterwards was her ego's death, Kasabian was unsure about Manson and her fellow cult members. "Kasabian was stronger psychologically than the others. That is, a stronger individual ego," Dr. Bonn stated.

After the Cleo Drive massacre, the next night Manson instructed Kasabian, Sandra Good, Atkins and Clem Grogan to murder a Lebanese man living in the Venice Beach neighbourhood. Kasabian acted against the cult leader's wishes, pretending to be confused and deliberately knocking on the wrong door. Kasabian saved Saladin Nadir from being a Manson victim.

Her day in court was fixed for 27 July 1970. In the corridors outside the courtroom, as Kasabian made her way to give sworn testimony, Sandra Good cropped up out of nowhere and shouted "You'll kill us all! You'll kill us all!"

WHEN GOOD GIRLS GO BAD

WHY WERE SEVERAL YOUNG WOMEN IN 1960s AMERICA DRAWN TO CHARLES MANSON AND HIS CULT OF CRIME?

WORDS NELL DARBY

It was the swinging 60s, and alternative culture was the byword for young people seeking an identity for themselves that was separate from, and different to, that of their parents. Their mothers and fathers had lived through World War II, through the Korean War and seen the burgeoning of a teenage identity - but it was their children who really established their own collective consciousness. This was an era of freedom, irresponsibility, of shunning responsibility and convention.

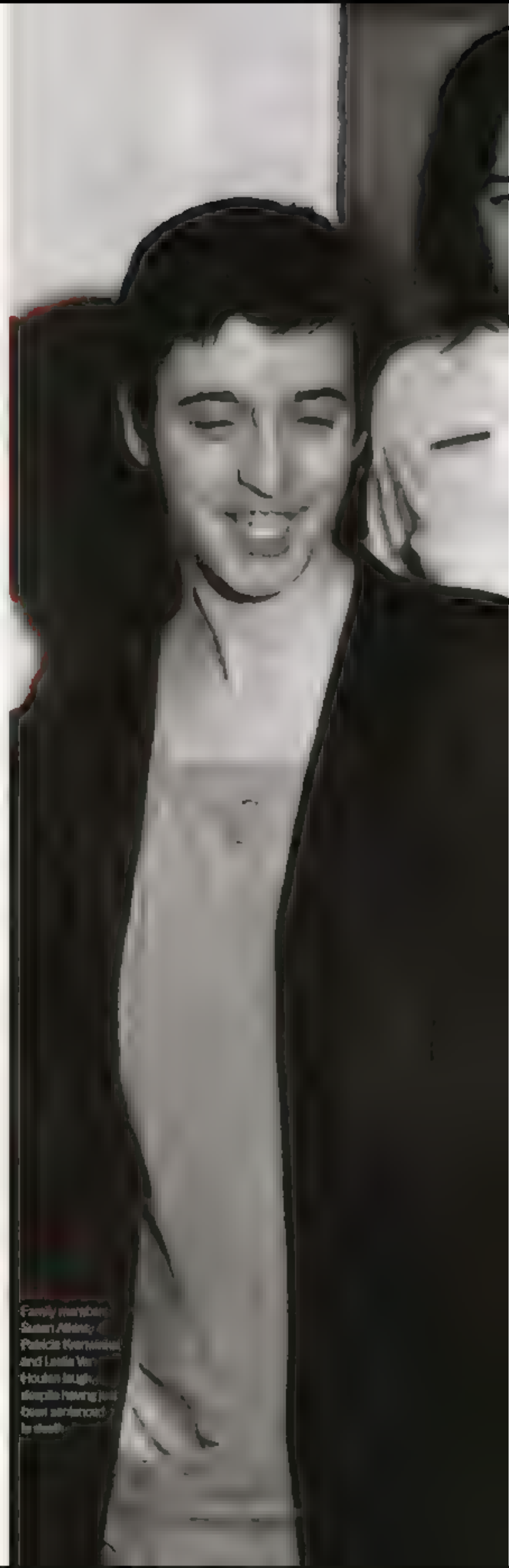
It was understandable for young men and women to seek their own lifestyles in this way, and to shun their parents' way of living, but some took this to extreme lengths. In the 1960s, some young, middle-class, impressionable women rejected the conventions of society, refusing to get married, have children, and be satisfied with life in a domestic setting. They wanted more - and when they came across a petty criminal and drifter named Charles Manson they saw the opportunity for a different, but dangerous, life.

One of these women, who became part of a group initially known as 'Charlie's Girls' was Mary Brunner. In the spring of 1967, she was living a respectable life as a library assistant at the University of California Berkeley. She was an intelligent girl, just 23 years old, with a university degree from the University of Wisconsin. Yet when she came across Charles Manson - ten years

her senior, newly released from prison, and begging on the streets of San Francisco to eke out a living - she was attracted to him. He was different from the young men in the university library and he offered her something she had never experienced in her young, middle class life. She left her job, and with it her prospects, instead, under Manson's thrall, she joined him in travelling around California in a van. She also soon became pregnant by the charismatic Manson, and in early 1968 gave birth to their son, Valentine Michael Manson.

Manson had not wanted a conventional life as a couple, however. In order to keep him, Mary had to share him, and he sold a vision of communal life to her. At the time she gave birth to Valentine, she had been living in a decrepit house in Topanga Canyon, and had been helped through childbirth by other women who Manson, by now, had recruited into his family. Afterwards, they moved to Venice, further south, and started renting a house with an 18-year-old woman, Lynette Fromme. Within two years, there were between 20 and 30 members of the Manson Family, both men and women, living together. Mary and Lynette, however, were among Manson's most ardent female followers.

Manson told his followers that he believed in freedom and love - and free love - as a combination of these factors, was a significant part of his ethos. He



Family members
Susan Atkins,
Patricia Krenwinkel
and Linda Warren
killed in 1969
despite having just
been sentenced
to death

WHEN GOOD GIRLS GO BAD





established a base in Chatsworth, an LA suburb. This was Spahn Ranch, named after George Spahn, and Manson's female followers were told to have sex with both Spahn and Manson, as well as with other men. Manson also sent them into LA to commit crime—and these young, educated women appeared keen to obey him.

Why were they so eager to commit armed robbery, credit card theft, and fraud? Undoubtedly Charles Manson had the charisma and power over them to persuade them. He ordered and they obeyed. Yet there was more to it than this. These were women being encouraged to break societal

norms. It was the late 1960s, and times were rapidly changing. Boundaries were being broken down, and there was a distinct youth culture emerging from the primness of the 1950s and early 1960s. There were increasing opportunities open to young women, yet the age-old patriarchal system still survived underneath it all. To be a woman meant to face restricted choices and attitudes, even when a woman received an education or a degree: her ultimate goal was still seen to be marriage and children, a home in which she was queen, where she should cook and clean for her husband so that when he got home from work, she was

WHY WOMEN LOVE BAD MEN

WHY DO MALE MURDERERS AND VIOLENT CRIMINALS FIND THEMSELVES AN UNLIKELY ATTRACTION FOR WOMEN?

Why do some women find violent criminals and murderers so attractive? Some women believe they can 'save' their partner; others like the danger. With men who are committing crime, there is always that danger, that frisson, that they may be caught, and that therefore you have to enjoy your relationship in an intense way as you don't know how long it will last. For women who have had fairly conventional upbringings, that feeling of danger and of doing something illicit can be powerful.

However, there are some key issues that are applicable only to those who start relationships with men who have already been convicted of crimes, and who are already in prison. Studies have found that women who start such relationships are often damaged psychologically—they have had upbringings where they've suffered some form of abuse, either sexual, emotional or physical. They need to control subsequent relationships, and if you are with a man who is literally behind bars, you get to have that control. He can only see you when it is the prison visiting hours; he can only talk to you if he is allowed to phone you, and if you choose to pick up that call. You also know that he is in prison and unable to do everything he may want to do—whereas you are not in prison, and can do what you want. You have the freedom, and therefore the control, and he doesn't.



ABOVE
Family members Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houten sit as they head to court

RIGHT
Bonnie Parker fell in love with Clyde Barrow, aiding him in his criminal career and dying with him

there to greet him with a smile and dinner on the table

Manson showed his female followers that there was another way to live – a life where boundaries were stretched, where gendered concepts of how to behave were smashed. In the Manson Family, young women from good families could play at being ‘bad’, to see what it was like to live dangerously, to love freely or with more than one person. The crimes he told these women to take part in, though, became increasingly serious, and would end in murder.

It was on 21 April 1968 that several members of the Manson Family were found naked round a campfire, next to an old bus, which had been reported stolen over a week earlier. Manson was arrested, accused of grand theft auto, and four more were charged with holding fake driver’s licences. One man – Bruce Vann Hall – was among those charged, along with three women – Suzanne Scott, Susan Atkins, and Dianne Lake. Nancy Pitman, Ella Jo Bailey and Marcus Arneson were charged with disorderly conduct and not holding proper IDs. There was no gender-based differences here: both male and female Manson Family members were charged with the same

offences. However, Mary Brunner did receive a further charge that summed up how she had caused polite society shock in her refusing of gender-based behaviour: she was charged with endangering the life of her week-old son, who had been found wearing inadequate clothing and shivering. She was subsequently found guilty of the lesser charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and given a 15-day suspended jail sentence.

These women were young and impressionable. Susan Atkins – popularly known as Sexy Sadie – was just 20 at the time, as was Patricia Krenwinkel. Sandra Good was a baby-faced 24 years old. Linda Kasabian was still in her teens. They were prime candidates to be swayed by a man ten years older, with what appeared to be a recognition that life could be tough – and what he told them was his solution: an idealised idyll where they could all live happily together.

Some also came from middle-class, but troubled, backgrounds that may have made them vulnerable to Manson’s powers of persuasion, while making them also feel that he was providing them with a family of their own, somewhere they belonged

RIGHT

Women throughout history have committed serious crimes, although in fewer numbers than men. Amelia Dyer, for example, was hanged for murder in 1896.

BELOW LEFT

Susan Atkins in the pink dress, being taken to jail by Los Angeles police in late 1969.

BELOW RIGHT

Several of the Family’s women served time at the California Institution for Women, a state prison east of LA.

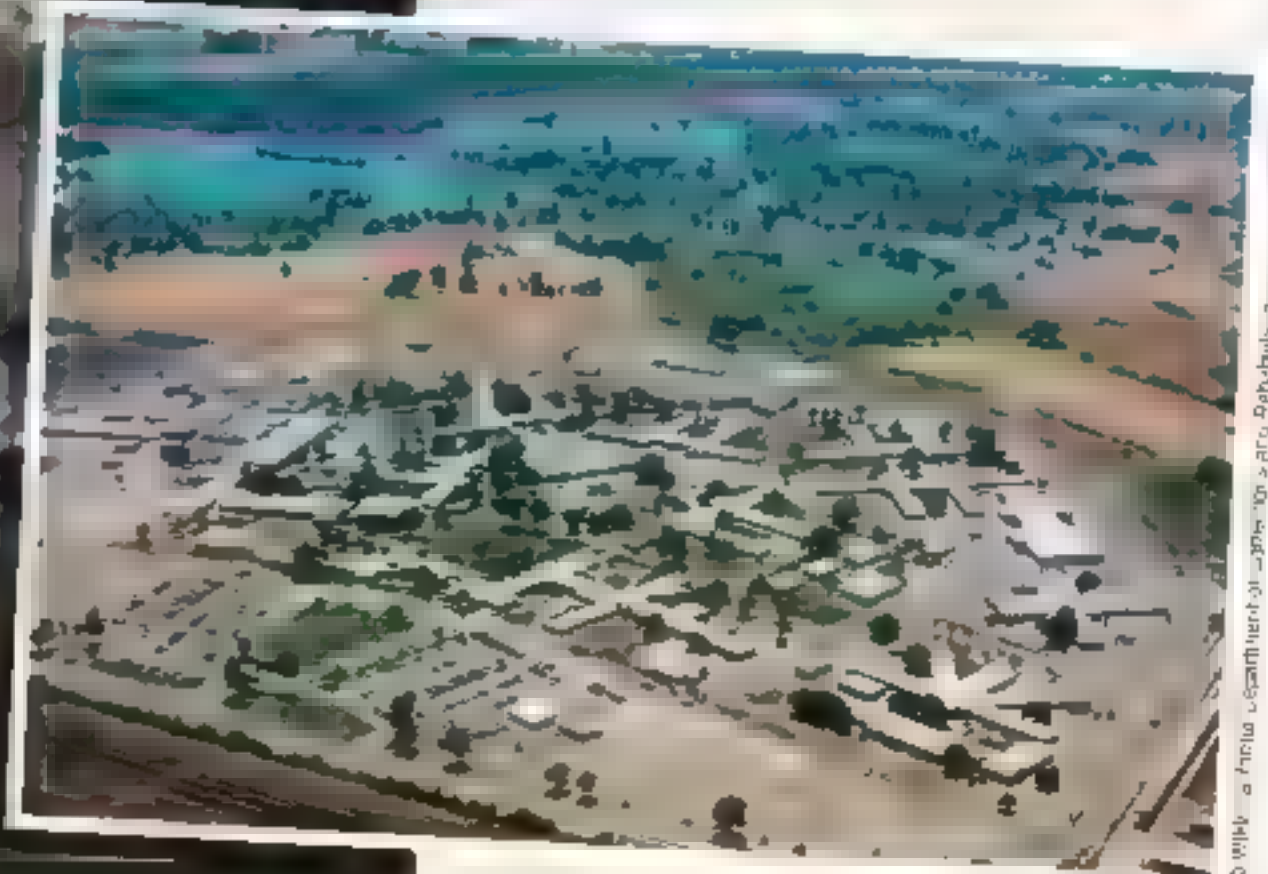
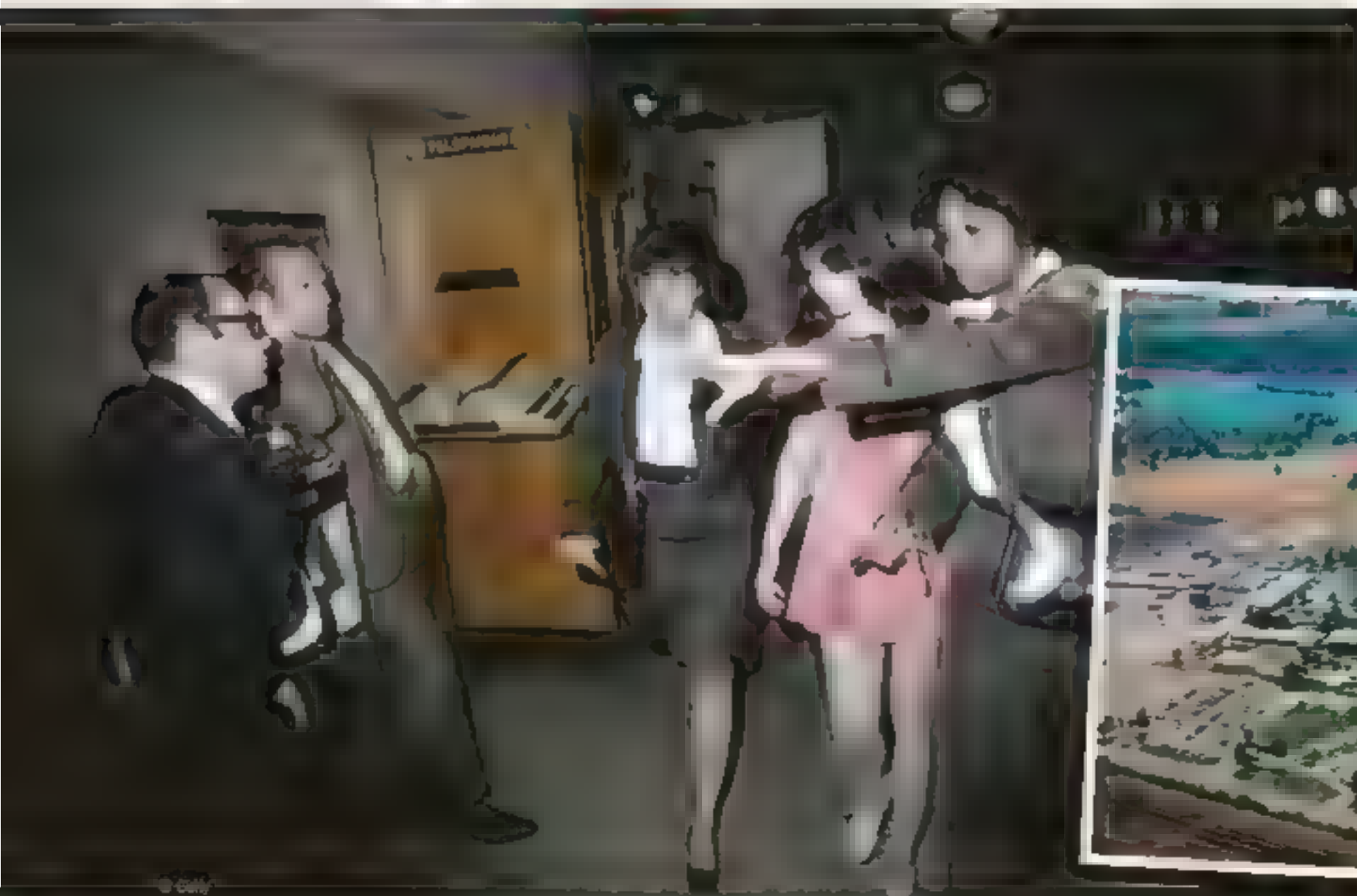


© Wm. Book & Art. Original film.

Susan Atkins, for example, said her parents had been alcoholics; they had also moved around a lot, meaning that she didn’t fit in anywhere. Her mother died in 1963, when Susan was 15 – an impressionable age. When her father relocated for work, Susan and her brother were left behind. At the time that she had met Manson, she had just been made homeless – he ‘caught’ her at the right time, and she had few other options open to her.

Sandra Good’s parents had divorced young, and she found it difficult to settle. She had attended various universities over the course of seven years, for example, but failed to receive a degree. Linda Kasabian, meanwhile, was from a working-class, poor background. She had several younger siblings and stepsiblings; her mother later said that as Linda was the eldest, she lacked attention. After two short, failed marriages, she was told by her friend Catherine Share about the Manson Family ranch in LA, which was presented as a paradise away from the problems of contemporary society. To the rejected wife, the sidelined daughter and the teenage mother, it sounded an escape from her issues.

“TO THE REJECTED WIFE, THE SIDELINED DAUGHTER, AND THE TEENAGE MOTHER, IT SOUNDED AN ESCAPE FROM HER ISSUES”



© Wm. Book & Art. Original film.

The female members of the Manson Family turned traditional gender stereotypes on their head. Although they could be seen to be under Manson's spell or subservient to him, it's important to note that they willingly took part in events that they knew were against the law and that would horrify society. They were, perhaps, products of their era, wanting to shake things up and live life differently to those who went before them. Even so, when crimes, such as theft, turned to murder, some of their members were very much actresses playing centre stage.

The most notorious, horrifying, event in the Manson Family's history was the Cleo Drive murders of August 1969. Susan Atkins, Linda Kasabian and Patricia Krenwinkel were willing participants, and Atkins may even have been responsible for Sharon Tate's horrific death. Kasabian claimed that she had not partaken in the violence, instead suggesting that she had tried to stop the killings by telling Atkins, falsely, that she could hear someone coming. But she knew what was going to happen, and if she had attempted to stop the massacre, it was not much of an effort.

These were women who may have joined the Family because they were under Manson's spell; they may have responded to the idea of a community of like-minded souls, of finding a family that they felt they had never previously had. Yet it is hard to understand why they continued to be a part of the Family when it became clear that they were not just expected to take part in criminal activity such as theft

but to participate in murder. Not only that, the Cleo Drive murders involved the Family's females in the brutal killing of a

heavily pregnant woman. She had been defenceless; she had never done anything to the women, or even been known to them outside of her film career. They participated in her murder nonetheless, killing both her and her unborn son.

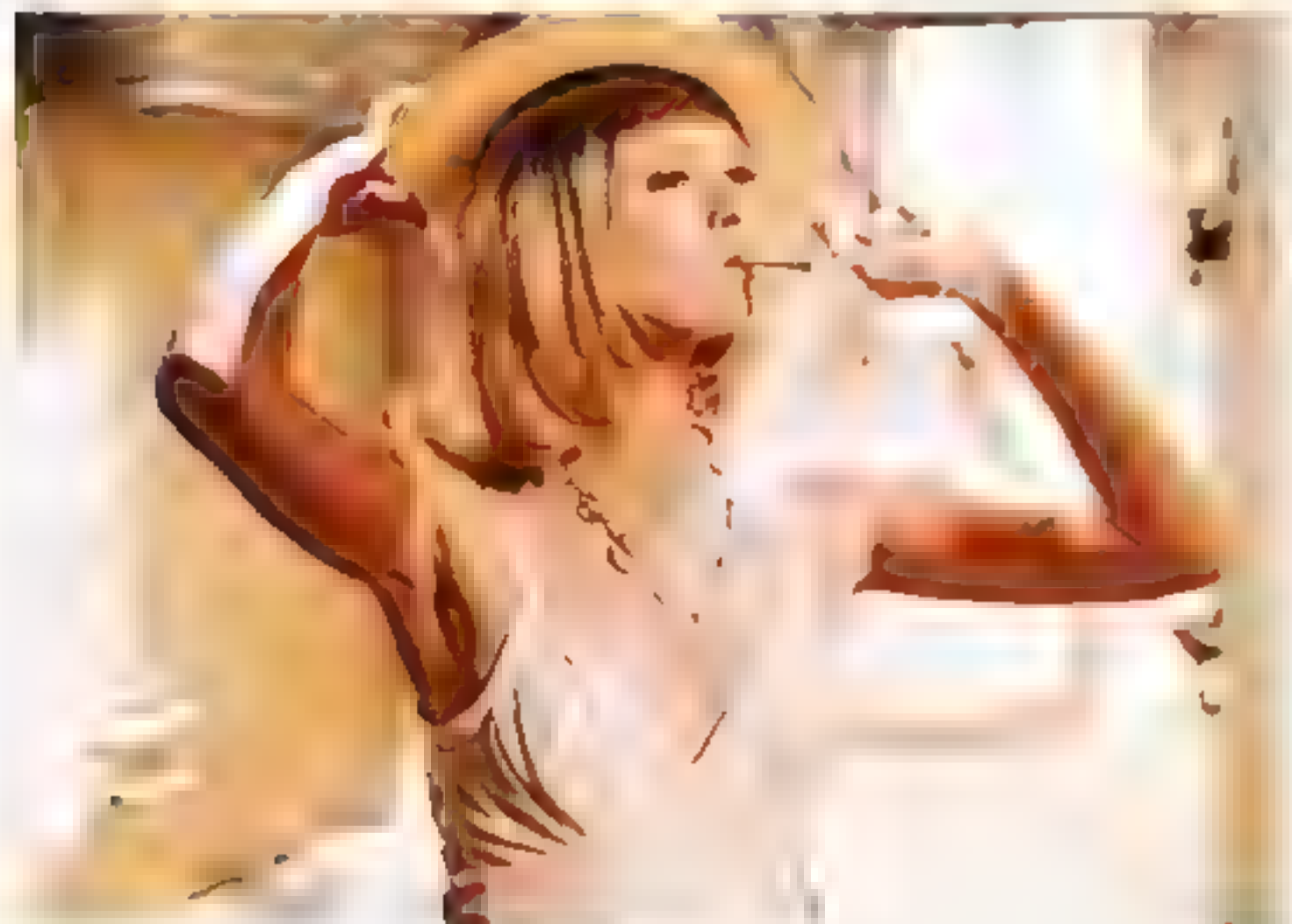
To try and understand them, we need briefly to look at the history of women and violence. Both men and women are products of their upbringing, a dysfunctional childhood and poor

ABOVE
Lynette Fromme and Ruth Ann Moorehouse being taken to jail. They frequently studied Manson's trial

Female criminals
are depicted in black and white terms, as either evil or romanticised figures. Faye Dunaway as Bonnie Parker is the latter

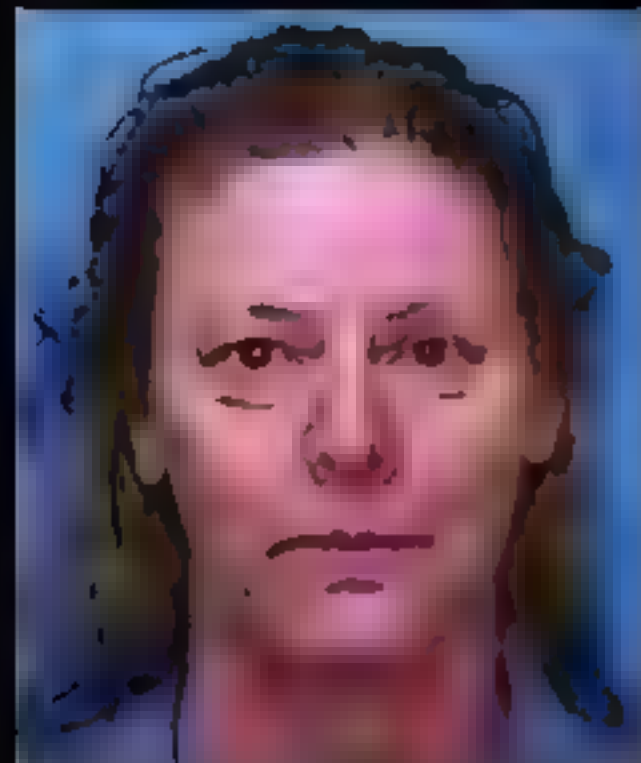
relationships with their families can result in trauma and sometimes criminal behaviour - but not always. Manson clearly displayed psychopathic behaviour from a young age, but his female followers did not. However, throughout history, there have been women who have blindly followed their partners into crime, or who had some latent criminality within them that simply needed a male partner's encouragement to emerge. Combined with the desire to break away from the confines of their parents' era and lifestyles, and to embrace the unconventional, it was the 1960s seemed to promote, this latent subversive element of the Manson Family women's personality was given free rein.

Manson also exerted a form of control over his young, impressionable, perhaps idealistic, female followers. Even after the murders of Sharon Tate and her friends, there was acceptance that killing was a part of being in Manson's 'tribe'. The night after the Cleo Drive killings came the murders of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. Although Tex Watson played the largest role in this, he had been told by Manson to ensure that everybody participated in the murders, and he followed his orders, giving Leslie Van Houten a knife and ordering her to "do something". She did, stabbing Rosemary at least 12 times.



PICTURING FEMALE CRIMINALS

MANSON'S WOMEN WERE YOUNG AND ATTRACTIVE – AND, SMILING AT THE CAMERAS DURING AND AFTER THEIR TRIALS, THEY SUBVERTED THE 'ACCEPTABLE' IMAGE OF FEMALE CRIMINALS



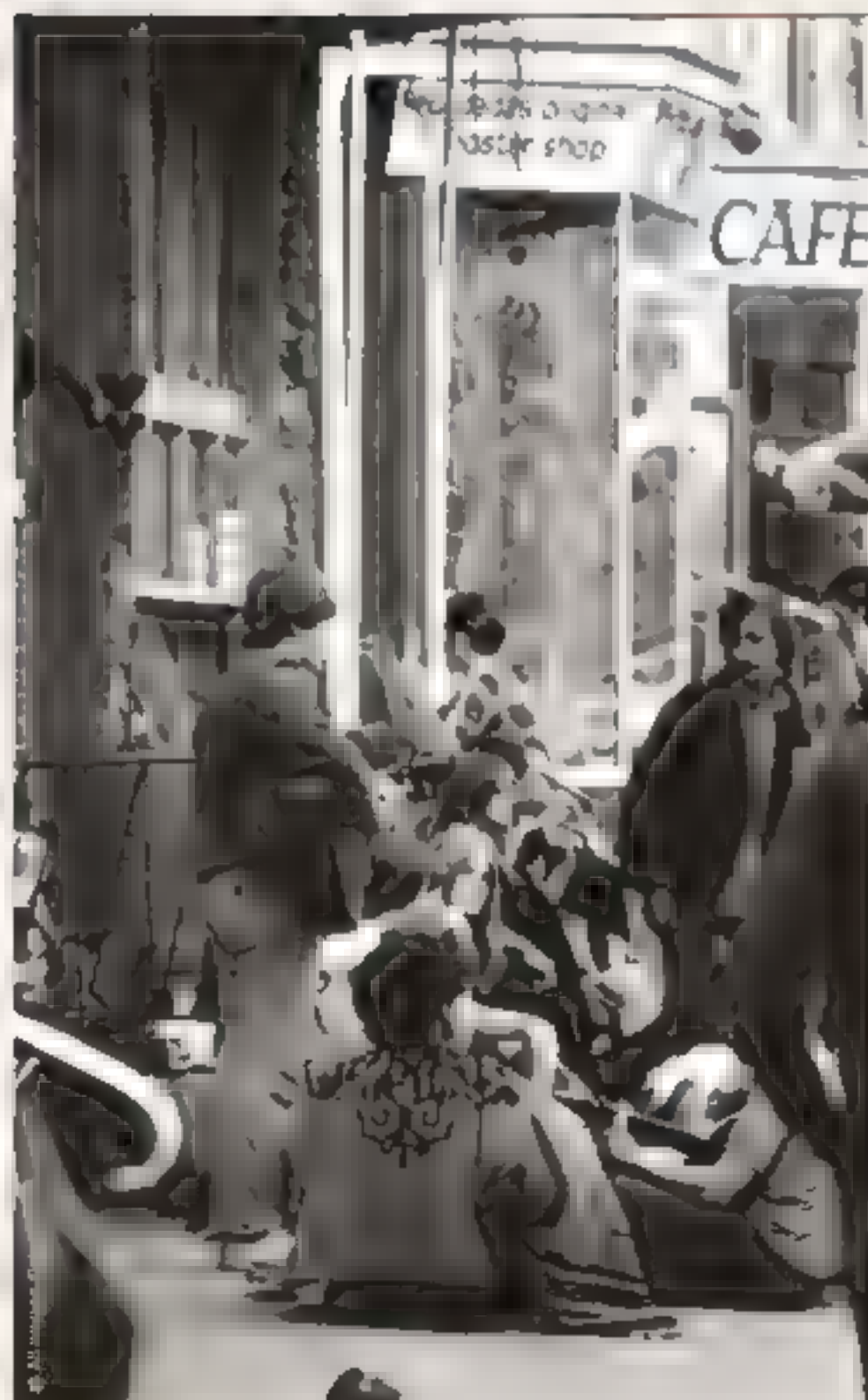
There is a tendency among both press and public to want to portray female killers in black-and-white terms – they are either plain (evil) or glamorous (corrupted innocents), rather than simply complex humans. To present them as evil is to rationalise their deeds, and an unattractive photograph reinforces this idea: think of the commonly used mugshot of Aileen Wuornos (above), the American serial killer, with tight lips and ungroomed hair. Velma Barfield, who confessed to six murders and was executed in 1984, glared belligerently out of her prison mugshot. Joanne Barrack, who killed several elderly women, is immortalised in a mugshot that shows her with cropped hair and severe expression. These women 'fit' our image of the female killer with their lack of overt femininity – they are perceived to be transgressors in both looks and deeds. The women of the Manson Family, though, looked feminine – they were physically attractive and photogenic young women. Their images subverted ideas of unattractive female criminality, and confused both press and public, for these were ordinary women, who had participated in extraordinary crimes. In photographs taken in the arena of the court, the women looked as though they were having a fun day out. What they shared with the mugshots of other female offenders, though, was a lack of remorse or regret in their expression. What their images all show, though, is that female offenders appear in different guises, and that you can never tell who is good – or who is bad – simply by relying on their external appearance.

Leslie Van Houten was unusual among the women in that she admitted her involvement in the murder: she and Krenwinkel later argued that Manson had told them to commit killings on his behalf. It was evident to many when she later appeared in court that she was under Manson's control; yet she was angered by this assumption, and disliked her lawyers using it as a defence. Certainly it's dangerous to assume that women who commit serious crimes, including murder, do so simply because they are under the control of a man: although historically women are less likely to kill or commit other serious crimes than men, this does not mean that they lack the urge or the ability. The case of Joanna Dennehy, who killed three men in 2013 in what became known as the Peterborough ditch murders, proves that women can kill independently as does the older case of Amelia Dyer, a middle-aged woman and former nurse who

LEFT
Aileen Wuornos's 1991 mugshot meets our expectations of the female killer

BELOW
It was an era of hippies, free love, feminism and free love – and Manson took full advantage of it

“AT THE DARK HEART OF THE FAMILY WAS CHARLES MANSON'S DESIRE FOR CONTROL”




killed the babies and infants that she was paid to care for, and was hanged for murder in 1896.

However, a troubled background or lack of emotional intelligence might help explain why certain women are drawn to dominant males, who encourage them to explore the dark part of their psyches. Manson was able to manipulate them psychologically, with one family member Catherine Share, stating that he threatened the women with violence and refused to let them leave his Family, radicalising them to believe wholeheartedly in his vision of a future race war – but it is hard to believe that he could have manipulated them so successfully if they hadn't been vulnerable to suggestion in the first place.

Manson's women were punished for their participation in his warped world of murder and mayhem. Susan Atkins' death sentence was commuted to life in prison and she was in prison until she died in 2009. Patricia Krenwinkel's lawyer claimed that she had been the victim of abuse by Manson, but despite this claim, she remains in prison, and is now California's longest serving female prisoner. Leslie Van Houten was recommended for parole in 2017 but this was overruled by the California Governor Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme did not take part in the Manson murders, but publicly supported the Family members who went on trial for them. She later served a prison term for other offences, being released in 2009. Linda Kasabian, however, was granted immunity from prosecution for providing testimony about the killings, an act that resulted in her being the subject of considerable intimidation from other Family members.

Because female murderers are relatively unusual – they commit a minority of premeditated killings – researchers have spent some time looking at the reasons why some women kill. Researchers have looked at the motives behind homicides, and found that men are more likely to have jealousy or revenge as their motives, although the 'thrill' of a kill is so evident. Women, however, are more likely to kill either for financial or business gain, or out of a warped sense of love, than men targeting those closest to them. In the case of Manson's female followers, they could be seen as killing for love – a warped love towards their leader Charles Manson. Yet at the dark heart of the Family was Charles Manson's desire for absolute control, and through the use of violence, coercion and drugs, he turned these women's desires for a summer of love into a summer of death.



THE PEOPLE VS CHARLES
MANSON: PART 2

TURNING POINT

STAR WITNESS CINDY KASABIAN GAVE THE PEOPLE PLENTY OF AMMO, BUT THE CONSTANT MEDIA COVERAGE AND EVEN PRESIDENT NIXON THREATENED TO UNRAVEL EVERYTHING

WORDS MARTIN COMPTON



HELTER SKELTER

The new decade began like a terrible hangover for America. The counterculture revolution turned to dust: the Summer of Love was well and truly dead. In August 1970, at the Halls of Justice in downtown Los Angeles the People versus Charles Manson trial was entering a critical phase. The media intensified its coverage, and the daily spectacle of Manson and his co-defendants continued to fascinate and appal in equal measure. Charlie concocted a scheme to get his disciples Atkins, Krenwinkel and Van Houten to take the fall, leaving their beloved leader to walk out of court a free man. LA historian and Manson expert, Dr Scott Bonn noted how the constant glare of cameras fed Manson's ego: "He loved the attention. It was, 'Look at me. I'm the Great Man. I'm Charles Manson. I've got the world's attention. He became like a rock star'."

But all hell broke loose when press reporting threatened the trial itself. President Richard Nixon's loose words during a press conference were akin to throwing gasoline on a raging fire. "The defence tried to get a mistrial, and they wouldn't allow it. They held up the paper and it said, 'Nixon says Manson is guilty' but the judge wouldn't go for it. There was so much attention paid to this [trial], something like that happening [Nixon's comments, was almost inevitable]."

On 3 August 1970 Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States

himself a former lawyer, rovally put his foot in it. While not exactly on par with the Watergate scandal, that ended his presidential career, his decision to air a comment about the Manson trial threatened to bring the whole thing to a stop and let the guilty walk away scot free. He put it bluntly: Manson and the others were "guilty, directly or indirectly, of eight murders without reason." Nixon added "As far as the coverage was concerned, he appeared to be rather a glamorous figure, a glamorous figure, to the young people whom he had brought into his operations."

Nixon was speaking to the press in Denver, Colorado, for a conference on crime control, sponsored by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, when he made his offhand prejudgement. As the newshounds rushed to file their copy with Nixon's explosive statement, the White House staff immediately knew the president had made a serious error. A press release quickly went out to state that Nixon had misspoken and - wouldn't you know it - had simply forgotten to use the word 'alleged' when talking about the case. "Nothing to worry about folks" was the message in other words.

Nixon had gotten on to the topic of Manson while he was broadly discussing the moral dilemmas and confusions of the era. He essentially hated flower power and hippies, complaining that they reflected the degeneracy in society and threatened

BELOW

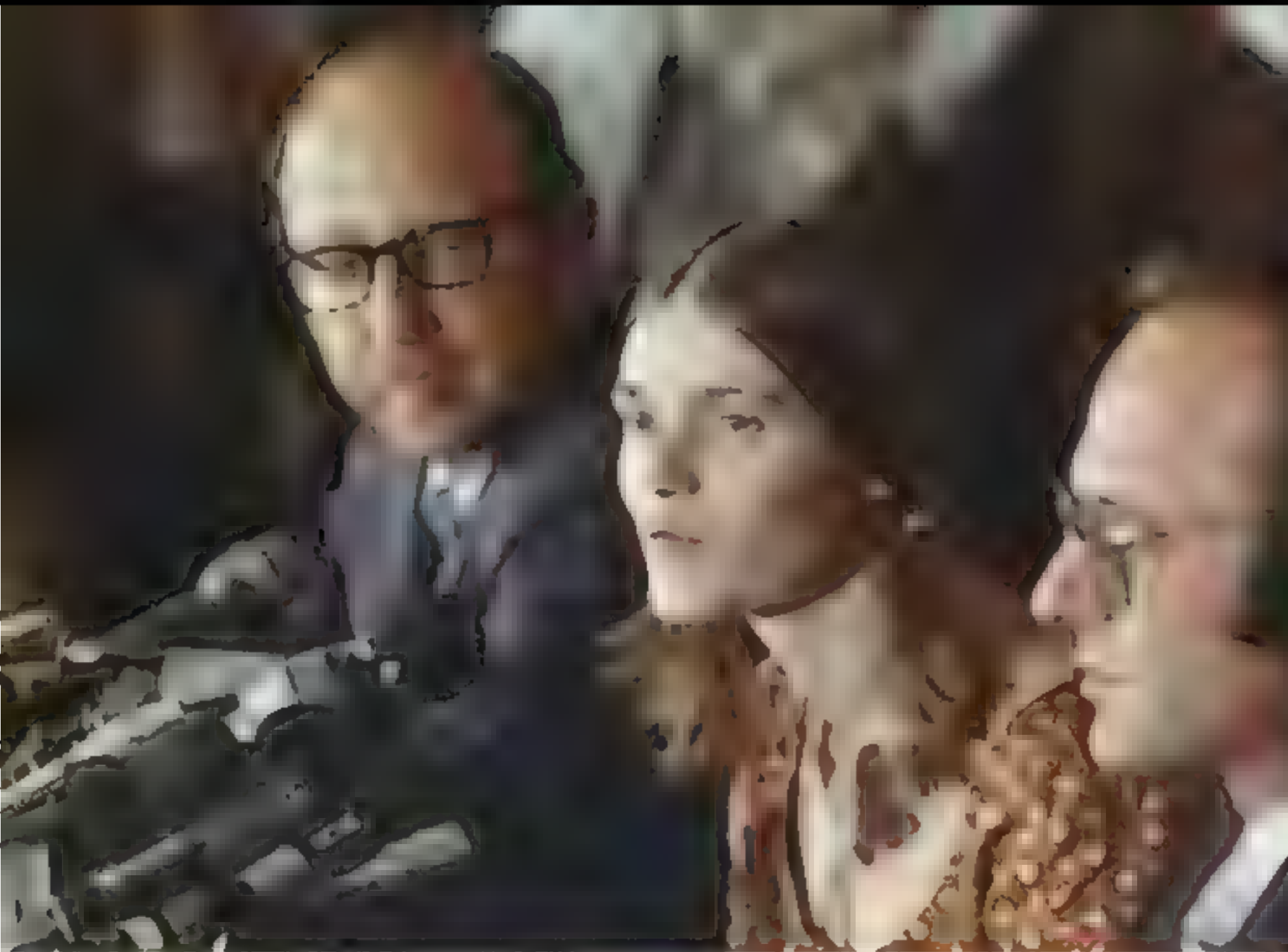
Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houten, three young women barely out of their teens, but doomed by Manson to spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

wholesome American values. He recalled how Westerns endured because of their clear moral coding and lack of ambiguity. The Republican went on to state that it was incumbent on the press and fellow Americans to ensure the social fabric remained intact and belief in the justice system never wavered. "The innocent will suffer but more important and just as important, the guilty will suffer as well because in a society without law the guilty then have no trials."

Nixon's comments put the trial in jeopardy. Judge Older called the four defence attorneys, along with the prosecutors Vincent Bugliosi and Aaron Stovitz, to his chambers. He denied the defence's plea for an immediate mistrial, but ordered security to make sure that

“YOUR HONOUR, THE PRESIDENT SAID WE ARE GUILTY, SO WHY GO ON WITH THE TRIAL?”





WHAT LINDA SAID

HAVING TURNED STATE'S EVIDENCE, KASABIAN'S CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MANSON'S HELTER SKELTER PLOT DOOMED THOSE ON TRIAL

ON MANSON'S CONTROLLING NATURE:

"IT SEEMED THAT THE GIRLS WORSHIPPED HIM, WOULD JUST DIE TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM."

ON COMMENCING HELTER SKELTER:

BUGLIOSI: "THE NIGHT OF THE AFTERNOON THAT MR. MANSON SAID, 'NOW IS THE TIME FOR HELTER SKELTER,' WERE YOU STILL AT THE RANCH THAT NIGHT?"
KASABIAN: "YES."

BUGLIOSI: "WAS THIS THE EVENING OF AUGUST THE EIGHTH, 1969?"

KASABIAN: "I BELIEVE SO."

ON TEX WATSON MURDERING STEVEN PARENT:

"A CAR PULLED UP IN FRONT OF US AND TEX LEAPT FORWARD WITH A GUN IN HIS HAND... AND THE MAN SAID, 'PLEASE DON'T HURT ME, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING!' AND TEX SHOT HIM FOUR TIMES."

ON THE MURDER OF WOJCIECH FRYKOWSKI

"THERE WAS A MAN JUST COMING OUT OF THE DOOR AND HE HAD BLOOD ALL OVER HIS FACE, AND HE WAS STANDING BY A POST, AND WE LOOKED INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES FOR A MINUTE, AND I SAID, 'OH, GOD, I AM SO SORRY, PLEASE MAKE IT STOP.' AND THEN HE JUST FELL TO THE GROUND INTO THE BUSHES, AND THEN SADIE CAME RUNNING OUT OF THE HOUSE AND I SAID, 'SADIE, PLEASE MAKE IT STOP.' AND THEN I SAID, 'I HEAR PEOPLE COMING.' AND SHE SAID, 'IT IS TOO LATE.'"

from now on the jury had no access to televisions or newspapers. Irving Krenwinkel, representing Manson, asked the judge if he could question the jury to find out if they'd heard about Nixon's gaffe. This was denied, too. The defense's next move was to bring in the morning edition of the *LA Times* the day after and slip it to Charles. He held it in front of the jury. "Manson Guilty: Nixon Declares," the headline screamed. "Your honour, the president said we are guilty, so why go on with the trial?" Atkins, Krenwinkel and Van Houten asked.

JUNE 1970 TRIAL START AND HELTER SKELTER

Filmmaker Roman Polanski told detectives investigating his wife and unborn sons' deaths that the impetus for the massacre at Cielo Drive was out of the ordinary. Polanski told Lieutenant Earl Deemer: "I'm looking for a motive, I look at something which does not fit your habitual standard." Polanski was correct. He told the cops to think outside the box, to look for "something more far out."

The reason for the murders was Manson's desire to start a race war between African Americans and white people and instigate the apocalypse. As plans go, it fits the definition of both grandiose and "far out." As Vincent Bugliosi began to build his case against Charles and the killers, he learned that Manson's chosen members served as his instruments. The phrase "Helter Skelter" cropped up repeatedly and it led to a shocking discovery: a coded term for a plot to bring about social chaos in a

ABOVE Linda Kasabian at the August 9, 1969 press conference, where she appeared after turning the prosecution's case. Kasabian was the prosecution's star witness

country undergoing a profound series of events—assassinations, an unpopular war and civil unrest.

One major clue was Krenwinkel's writing "Helter...sic! Skelter" on the LaBiancas fridge. It meant nothing but gibberish to the LAPD at the time. But Bugliosi began to appreciate what the term "Helter Skelter" meant to Manson and his followers. Investigators hit the jackpot when exploring the Spahn Ranch—a door was found with "Helter Skelter" scrawled on it. Why would this term appear on the LaBiancas fridge and crop up at the Spahn Ranch if they were unrelated? They'd also retrieved the alleged gun used in the Tate murders found by a boy in Sherman Oaks. The boy, Steven Weiss, knew from watching detective shows on television that to preserve fingerprints he had to handle it with care (if only his father had been so wise, he put his hands all over it and even fired the weapon). Fingerprints were lifted from the Tate-Polanski property which matched Krenwinkel and Watson.

The trial began in June 1970 with a jury consisting of seven men and five women. The jury selection phase had been tedious, with 141 potential jurors questioned. It took five weeks, and those selected were shocked to discover they would be sequestered for 225 days.

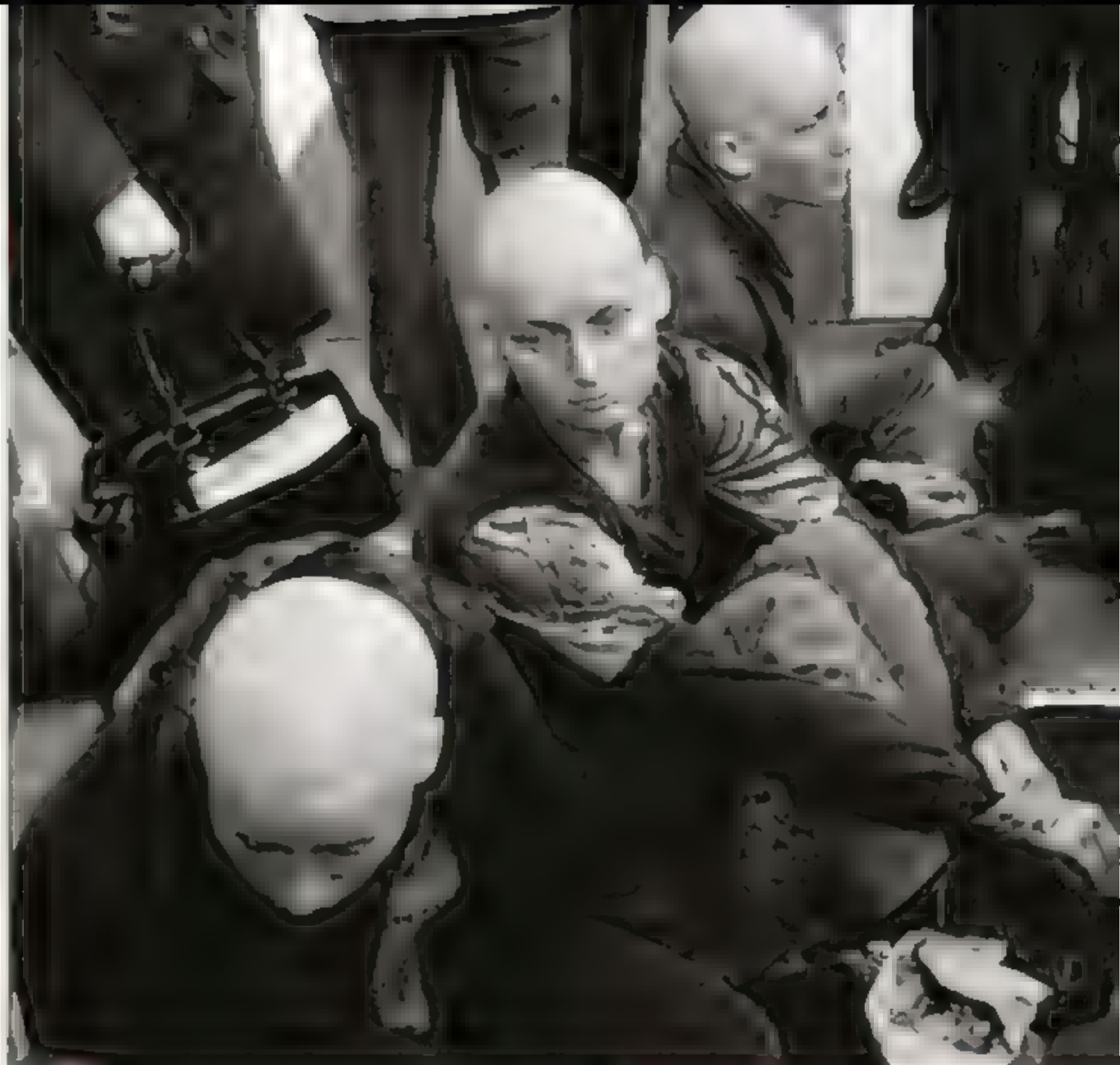
In a bid to stop the Manson groupies and disruptive members causing a ruckus in court, every known acolyte in the cult leader's fold was served with a subpoena barring them from the courtroom. Bugliosi was confident enough in his gameplan

on opening day he'd be able to state his case in strong terms, grip the jury, impress upon them the sheer horror of the murders and get the outcome he desired. But then Manson somehow managed to carve an 'X' into his forehead, pulling exactly the kind of media baiting distraction Bugliosi had feared. Meanwhile outside a Family member read out a statement about the X symbol: "You have created the monster. I am not of you, from you. I have Xed myself from your world." Soon enough, Family members carved Xs into their heads, as did the co-defendants, proving this was all orchestrated for maximum publicity.

Manson's gameplan was to let his co-defendants dig their own graves so he could walk away through lack of compelling evidence. The puppet master professed ignorance of the murders. "These were children finding themselves," Manson claimed. "What they did, if they did whatever they did, is up to them. They will have to explain that to you."

Manson continued to lean on the women through his lackeys. They were ordered to profess their guilt and clear their 'Lord and Saviour.' They would do this by telling the court that Manson was not involved in the Tate-LaBianca killings because he was fast asleep at the Spahn Ranch that night and so could have had no involvement.

But Manson's plan to let the young women take the rap by saying he was away from the scene of the crime had a major flaw. "Manson was convicted of first-degree murder, as if he did it himself but it's actually by proxy," Scott Bonn explained. "It's as if they were the tool. They acted on his behalf. Here's another example. I interviewed a woman named Pamela Smart and in 1990 she was a young woman who



ABOVE
Manson Family supporters outside the Hall of Justice. They talked to the media and passed by and sometimes issued threats like "as 'You, I better watch your backer. Judgment Day is coming!'"

worked at a high school. She had an affair with a 15-year-old boy. She seduced him. She got the boy and his friends to murder her husband on her behalf. Four 15-year-old boys acted on her behalf. That's murder by proxy. They were ultimately convicted of second-degree murder because they were underage, and she was convicted of first-degree murder even though she wasn't there. Just like Manson, she was found guilty."

KASABIAN IN THE STAND

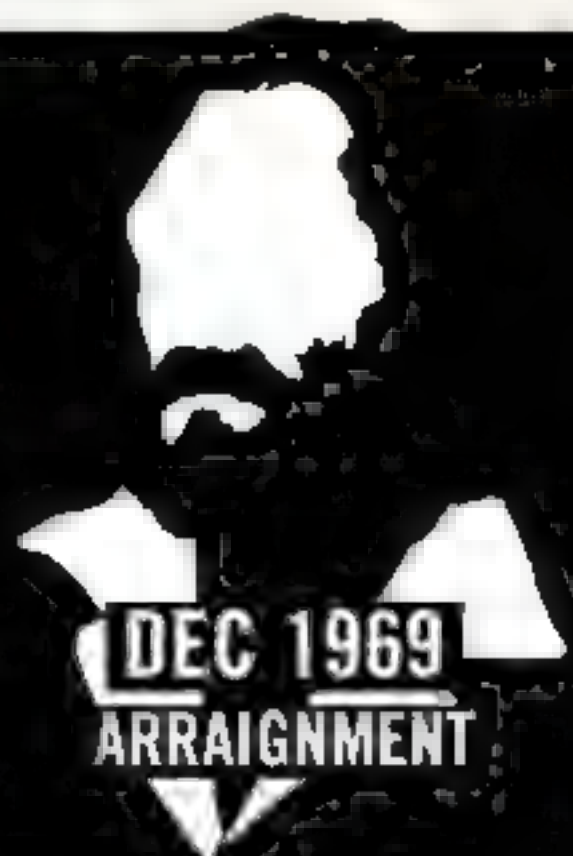
"I strongly believe in the truth, and I believe the truth should be spoken," Linda Kasabian said in reply to Bugliosi's question regarding her main reason for supplying testimony at trial.

Bugliosi was aghast when he saw what Kasabian was wearing—a maternity dress that was so baggy it gave off too much of a hippie vibe. Proceedings were held up while a dress purchased by her lawyer Gary

MANSON'S MANY FACES

MANSON'S IMAGE CHANGED MANY TIMES DURING THE TRIAL. HE EVEN CUT AN 'X' INTO HIS FOREHEAD.

When arrested at the Barker Ranch, Manson was sporting his Family-made buckskin costume and wore long hair and a beard. He looked like any other hippie, though the buckskin ensemble gave off a roguish, outlaw quality. It is clear Manson's image changes were partly a response to the media's fevered attention but also aimed at exerting control over Family members on the outside.





was a person who had learned all he knew of Californian law from watching television shows. He told the court he would call forth a witness, who claimed Kasabian was unreliable because she'd dropped LSD 300 times. Her mind was too "fried" to make sense and said Bugliosi made a smart play by bringing up Kasabian's promise of an immunity deal in return for testimony in the early stages. Kanarek objected, called for a mistrial and further objected on four counts. Bugliosi only had to draw one ball to incur an "Objection, your Honour" from his rival, whose retrials in court would later be mocked by Bugliosi. In his book, the bestseller *Helter Skelter*, "Often he used a shotgun approach—leading and suggestive, no foundation, conclusion and hearsay—in the hope some of the bullets would hit."

Kanarek made a very bad move when he decided to show Linda Kasabian crime scene photographs of Sharon Tate. Holding up a photograph of "a lifeless body, Kasabian's horrified response was unexpected. "Oh, God," she exclaimed, revealing her human side—a repentant side, a person wanting to right a grave wrong. But Kanarek's desperate move backfired because Kasabian had never

Fleischmann could be tracked down and Kasabian changed her clothes. Then it was her time to take the stand and detail, to the jury, over an 18-day period, how Manson controlled people, how he manipulated them and how that awful couple of nights transpired straight from Manson's decisions and instructions. As she took her place, Charlie and his co-defendants gazed at her in a bid to unsettle Kasabian. In return, she offered them pitying looks.

TOP RIGHT

Family members stopped a 15-mile journey in the halls of justice. They made the 15-mile journey for their mark was. They believed Manson was the Son of Christ.

Kanarek, a man legendary for his use of delaying tactics, objected to the witness being called. He declared her wholly unfit to testify, arguing she was "not competent and insane." Bugliosi demanded Kanarek be found guilty of contempt. Although Judge Older agreed that Kanarek was being deliberately "outrageous," he instructed the clerk to merely disregard the objection.

Kanarek ploughed on with his haphazard approach to defence, as if he



JUN 1970
TRIAL BEGINS



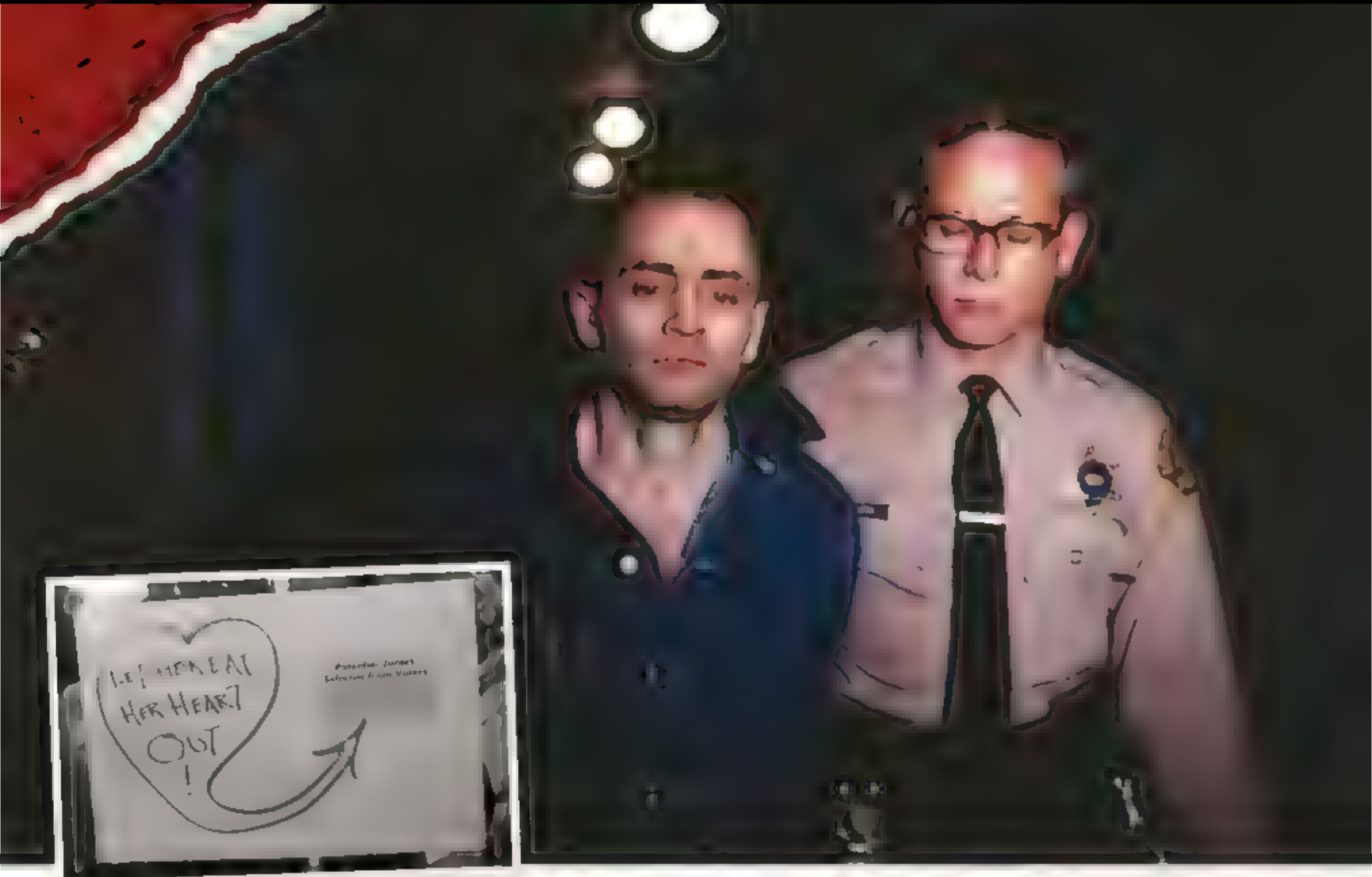
NOV 1970
THE TRIAL ENDS



DEC 1970
SUMMARY
STATEMENTS



MAR 1971
PENALTY PHASE



stepped foot inside the house at Cleo Drive and never saw Jay Sebring or Tate killed. She was seeing it all for the first time, and it only increased her resolve. She demonstrated even more remorse, asking the defendants how on earth they could do such bestial things. By this point his fellow defence team realised Kanarek was doing considerable damage, as the jury saw the photos too, and it put into their minds the savagery of the murders. Manson became irate with Kanarek for the blunder.

As her days of testimony wore on, Linda who was sometimes shaky and vague and sometimes adamant detailed how Manson controlled every single facet of their daily lives. "Manson, in his earlier years, was a pimp, and he knew how to gradually control people, especially women," Scott Bonn noted. "He became their world, the focal point of their entire existence: he gave them a place to stay, he gave them love, or at least his version of love; he protected them and so of course, these were damaged women... he was looking for women on the fringes."

Tex Watson was Manson's right-hand man, and, as Bonn explained, he became "a big shot. He was having sex with all the girls and he ate it up. You could say that Manson was very good at understanding people's

ABOVE

making them like a horror thing that a cult leader. Charles Manson is led into court by armed guards. He does not acknowledge the camera's presence.

INSET

A homemade poster with a series of messages relating to the trial and the future it was causing. Among the handwritten notes is a letter to a newspaper editor mocking the jury and trial.

“KANAREK AND THE DEFENCE TEAM WANTED TO MAKE KASABIAN LOOK AS UNRELIABLE AS POSSIBLE”

vulnerabilities and ascertaining their needs and feeding those needs for his own advantage. It's an indication of just how far he got into their heads. He really controlled them. He got messages out to them and told them to do things, to create a spectacle and so forth, but the fact they were willing to do what he told them to do... it's not surprising, he really owned them.

Manson turned his followers into zombies. He did it through a combination of drugs and isolation and sex. It was a repeated belief system, he was relentless. All they heard was 'Helter Skelter' and Manson's view of the world, over and over and over. Mind control, isolation, psychological manipulation... this just didn't happen overnight. If you look at survivors of cults, it takes years, sometimes a lifetime to undo the damage done."

Kanarek and the defence team wanted to make Kasabian look as unreliable as possible to the jury. The drug angle didn't damage her reputation as they had hoped, so they tried to bring up her sexual history

and her past LSD use. Kasabian admitted sleeping with just about every man on the ranch, under Charles's orders. She also admitted regularly using LSD and tripping about 50 times in total, but she claimed she hadn't partaken for three months prior to the killings. Kanarek and the others gave Kasabian a rough time on the stand. Was she on drugs that night? Was she so high she couldn't tell fact from fiction? Kasabian fired back she was "under the influence of Charlie."

On 10 August Judge Older signed Kasabian's immunity deal, and three days later all charges against her were formally dropped. Since December 1969 she had been incarcerated in solitary confinement but finally, unlike the others, she was free to rebuild her life. Kasabian's testimony was a massive victory for the People.

ANUARY APRIL 97
THE VERDICT

"These defendants are human monsters, human mutations," Vincent Bugliosi told

THE MURDERED LAWYER?

RONALD HUGHES REPRESENTED LESLIE VAN HOUTEN DURING INITIAL TRIAL PROCEEDINGS. WAS HE MURDERED BY THE MANSON FAMILY?

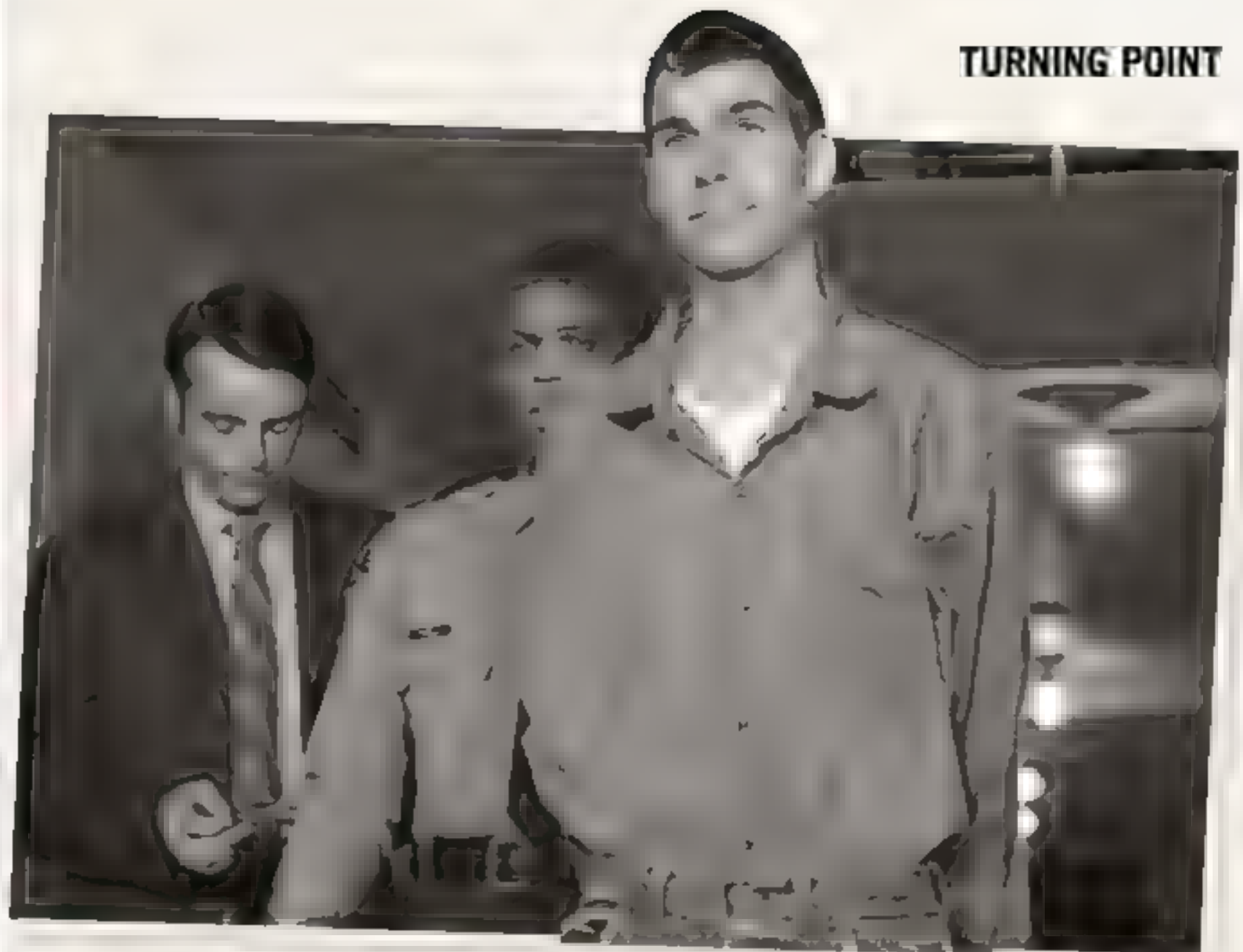
Ronald W Hughes went missing during a camping trip he took in a short break at the end of the trial. On 30 November 1970, with the court back in session, Van Houten's lawyer was nowhere to be found. After several days, Judge Older appointed new counsel for the defendant, which delayed things further. Hughes, who many agreed was a terrible legal representative, had told friends he was going hiking to Sycamore Springs. His severely decomposed remains were discovered in March 1971.

Leslie Van Houten, still under Manson's grip, accused Judge Older of assassinating Hughes, with Manson piping up too. Older ordered the four defendants to be removed from the courtroom. Did Manson order Hughes's assassination from behind bars, thinking it would wreck the trial? While no specific signs of foul play were detected, rumours have swirled for years that Hughes was murdered by Family members.

the jury in April 1971. He was after the death penalty for the quarter in the dock. In January 1971 the verdicts had been given, to be followed by the penalty phase. Atkins, Krenwinkel and Van Houten's lawyers highlighted their youth while attempting to gloss over their unrepentant stance. Their raucous displays in court and general behaviour was not forgotten by anyone.

It took the jury 42 hours to reach 27 individual verdicts relating to the seven charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy. The room was jammed full of guards. Upon receiving the death penalty on 22 April, Manson decided to make another distracting statement. "You people have no authority over me! Half of you here ain't as good as I am." Charlie was dragged from the courtroom under order of the judge and packed off to San Quentin. Manson had sought to disrupt proceedings at every turn, but his reaction to being sentenced to die was a realisation his game-playing had resolutely failed. He was a condemned man.

On 19 April Manson, Atkins, Krenwinkel and Van Houten received their sentences. Judge Older summed up: "I must agree with the prosecutor that if this is not the proper case for the death penalty, what would be?"



Charles Lee Watson argues for his assignment moving on multiple charges. Watson was Manson's right-hand man and had to be extradited from Texas to California to go to trial.

It wasn't over for Charlie yet: he still awaited trial for the murders of Gary Hinman and Donald Shea. He received further guilty verdicts in December 1971.

However in February 1972 California went to the ballot box to vote on the abolition of the death penalty. All those on death row would have their sentences commuted to life sentences. Atkins, Krenwinkel and Van Houten are said to have cheered when they heard the news at the California Institution for Women. Manson was acting smug again. He could handle life on the inside - the prison system had raised him. What's more, they'd be eligible for parole after only seven years.

"I think you can make an argument that Manson definitely does not deserve to see the light of day, but I think the women, you could argue, it might have been a little bit too harsh. There's no question they should have served lengthy sentences, but life is, arguably, too harsh for them. They were young and vulnerable and manipulated as well," Bonn said.

While Manson died in 2017, Van Houten, Krenwinkel, Davis and Watson remain in the slammer. Countless parole hearings have taken place: the women have been recommended for release, but successive governors of California have refused to sign off on the paperwork. Susan Atkins died of brain cancer in 2009, never setting foot back into the world. Compassionate discharge was denied.

In August 2017 Van Houten made another bid for freedom under a recent change in California law. Those who

committed murder while under the age of 23 may apply for a hearing with the Los Angeles Superior Court (which took place on 6 September 2017), which looked at how their youth and bad decision-making served as factors related to the crime. Van Houten has been called a model prisoner and parole boards have recommended her for release, stating she is no longer a threat to the public. Her parole is currently under review and awaiting a final decision from the governor.

Bruce Davis has also been recommended for parole, but the governor of California - as with Van Houten and Krenwinkel - denied freedom. Prior to his death, Manson was denied parole for the twelfth time in 2012.

Fifty years on, the Manson murders and the trial have haunted culture. Manson never lived down his infamy and ultimately society (especially the media) gave him what he craved - the chance to feel important, to become not just famous in the 15 minutes Warholian sense, but infamous in the annals of history.

The Manson Family murders defined a generation as much as the Vietnam War, The Beatles and the Kennedy assassination did. The trials, especially the Tate-LaBianca one, were presented as a circus. Irving Kanarek wasn't wrong when he described the trial as "entertainment for the public". The trial might have looked like a circus, but it was always a tragedy for the murder victims and their families and for the women who wrongly believed Charlie was their messiah.

CHEATING THE CHAMBER

MANSON AND FOUR FOLLOWERS WERE CONDEMNED IN 1971. SO HOW DID SOME OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST DESPISED CHEAT THE DEATH PENALTY?

WORDS ROBERT WALSH

Charles Manson was and remains one of crime's most notorious figures. His rag-tag Family committed at least nine murders under his direction, possibly more. Arriving at San Quentin's 'Condemned Row' on 22 April 1971, Manson couldn't have expected to leave except via the gas chamber. As it turned out, he was wrong. Two court cases saw not only Manson safely off Condemned Row, but over 500 condemned convicts across the United States as well. Far from being gassed in the 1970s, Manson served a life sentence lasting until his death from natural causes on 19 November 2017.

In 1966, Robert Page Anderson entered Condemned Row convicted of one murder, three attempted murders and first-degree robbery. Under California state law, Anderson was entitled to one mandatory appeal. Decided in 1972, his appeal surprised experts. The State Supreme Court ruled in his favour, deciding that California's death penalty as it then stood breached the State Constitution outlawing cruel and unusual punishment.

The Anderson ruling didn't, however, remove California's death penalty. Just as



prisoners could appeal to the US Supreme Court, so too could individual states and prosecutors. The Anderson ruling could still have been reversed, leaving all California's condemned still eligible to meet their maker in the gas chamber.

When Manson arrived at San Quentin in 1971, inmates were still being condemned but not executed. He had effectively escaped execution by one court ruling and an accident of dates. He'd been condemned at just the right time for fate and the courts to intervene. However, Manson and his followers weren't out of the woods just yet.

Had the Anderson ruling been reversed then Manson and the other condemned

The gas chamber at San Quentin nicknamed the coughing box between 1937 and 1993, 196 prisoners died in it.

LEFT Susan Atkins' death sentence was also altered. She died in 2009 as California's longest-serving female inmate.

prisoners would have still faced execution. That all changed when the US Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Furman vs Georgia* on 29 June 1972. William Furman had been condemned in 1967 for murder during an attempted burglary. His appeals made their way up through State and Federal courts to the US Supreme Court whose rulings apply nationally.

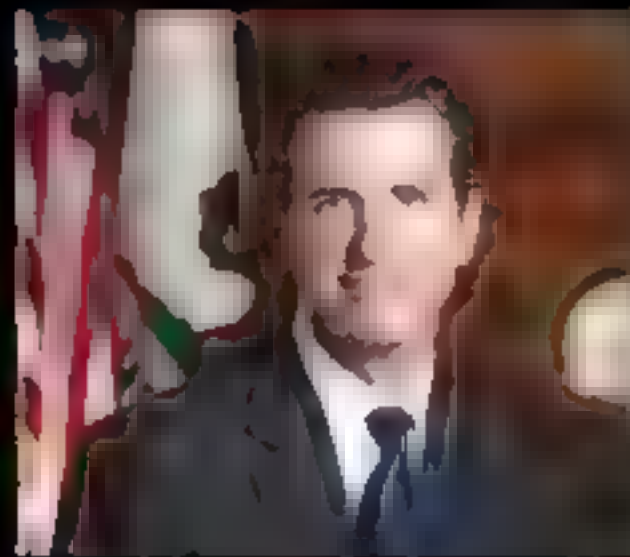
Furman's lawyers argued that the death penalty was applied arbitrarily, capriciously and broke the US Constitution by being a cruel and unusual punishment. To the surprise of many (and the fury of the pro-death penalty lobby), Furman won. The Supreme Court ruled by a vote of



CALIFORNIA PRISON
WO8304

PROPOSITION 17: CHANGING THE RULES

PROPOSITION 17 ALLOWED CALIFORNIA TO SIDE-STEP THE ANDERSON RULING. FURMAN VS. GEORGIA WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY SETBACK, AFTER ALL.



After Gregg vs Georgia, US states rushed to write laws complying with the Supreme Court's criteria and allowing them to resume executions. Many had inmates condemned since the Furman ruling, but Manson wasn't on the list. Lacking a sentence of life without parole, California's condemned had all been re-sentenced to life imprisonment. Ironically, after the Anderson ruling invalidated California's death penalty in February 1972 it had been restored by a referendum, Proposition 13, in November 1972. Furman's ruling had been in June. Had Furman lost and new murder charges been brought, Manson could still have been executed.

Proposition 17 amended California's State Constitution. Cruel and unusual punishment remained outlawed, but the death penalty was specifically mentioned as not being cruel and unusual punishment. Any California prisoner on Condemned Row between the Anderson ruling and Proposition 17 was exempt even if condemned years earlier. The Furman case sealed the deal, leaving no condemned prisoner facing execution anywhere.

Manson and his family members were saved by a combination of dates and court rulings. Anderson's case had given them a temporary reprieve, but Furman's had saved them completely. Proposition 17 was challenged before the State Supreme Court in 1978, but the Court ruled in the state's favour. It remained part of California's Constitution.

Current Governor Gavin Newsom has blocked executions in the State of California by executive order signed in March 2019. A long-time opponent of capital punishment, Newsom has already had execution equipment removed from San Quentin, perhaps never to return.



“INDIVIDUAL STATES WERE FREE TO REWRITE THEIR DEATH PENALTY LAWS”

five to four the narrowest of margins, that individual state death penalty laws broke the US Constitution

With that defining ruling, death penalty laws nationwide no longer applied. Around 500 prisoners condemned to death across the country saw their sentences commuted to life imprisonment instead. The Furman ruling was thought by many to have permanently outlawed capital punishment across the country as a whole – only it hadn't. The Court's ruling struck down laws as they then stood, but it didn't outlaw the death penalty itself. The abolitionists among others had badly miscalculated the Court's intentions.

Individual states were free to rewrite their death penalty laws knowing the Court would examine them and rule again sooner or later. They were still free to pass death sentences, though not to actually execute inmates. They passed dozens, especially in the South, which remains the bastion of America's death penalty. While many abolitionists thought their battle won, the pro-execution lobby prepared to challenge the Furman ruling. Double murderer Troy Gregg, also from Georgia, appealed his own



ABOVE

San Quentin, home to California's condemned. Manson arrived in 1977 expecting to be put to death here.

ABOVE LEFT

Current Governor Gavin Newsom has recently suspended California's death penalty. His decision has caused great controversy.

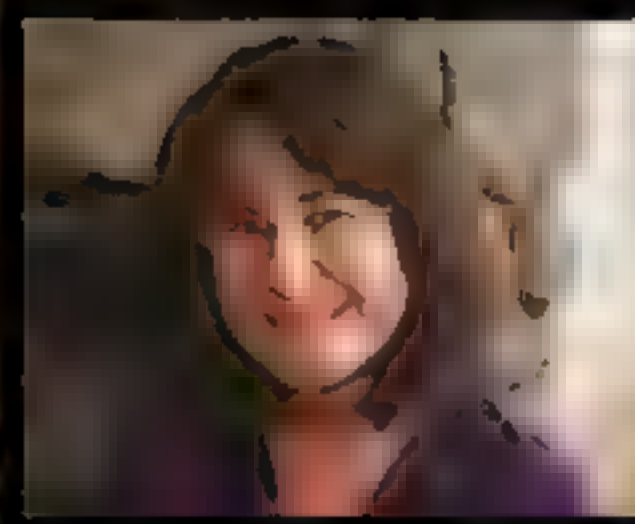
ABOVE RIGHT

Stanford law professor Anthony Amsterdam (seated, from right) was a key figure in the fight against the death penalty.

death sentence to the US Supreme Court in 1976. They succeeded: by another narrow margin the Court ruled in Georgia's favour.

Neither William Furman nor Troy Gregg faced execution, either. At the time of writing Furman resides in Georgia as a parolee. Gregg made the first successful escape from Georgia's death row on 28 July 1980 only one day before his scheduled execution. Escaping with three other inmates, he was murdered in a brawl at the Willow Tavern biker bar near Charlotte North Carolina later that night. His accomplices were all recaptured.

Even after the Gregg case Manson was still safe. The Gregg ruling came several years after his sentence had been commuted. Manson's sentence was amended again in 1977 making him eligible for parole. Despite numerous applications beginning in 1978 he never got it. He passed through San Quentin, Vacaville, Corcoran, Folsom and Pelican Bay before dying, still a prisoner at the age of 83.



DIANNE LAKE

Not long after the Manson trial, Dianne got married and settled into a stable, middle-class life she had been denied for much of her childhood. She has three (now grown-up) children, works in the international department of Barclays Bank and has recently turned her hand to writing, penning her own story in *Member Of The Family*.

INTERVIEW

MY ESCAPE FROM THE MANSON FAMILY

DECADES AFTER SHE TESTIFIED AGAINST THEM THEN SLIPPED AWAY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE MANSON FAMILY REVEALS WHAT LIFE INSIDE HIS CULT WAS LIKE, AND HER LIBERATION FROM MANSON'S CLUTCHES

PHOTOGRAPH BY [REDACTED]



“IT WAS JUST A VERY MAGICAL EXPERIENCE. [MANSON] WAS THIS IMPISH, LONG WAVY-HAIRED... HIPPIE DUDE THAT PLAYED THE GUITAR”



ABOVE LEFT
Pursuing a hippie dream, Dianne's father found their comfortable home in 1962

ABOVE RIGHT
Dianne playing with her little brother Danny in happier times, in suburban Minnesota

In 2008 Dianne Lake dropped a bombshell on her children, friends and the cosy community in which she'd lived for decades. From 1967 to late 1969, between the ages 14 to 17, she had been part of the same close-knit hippie commune led by ex-con Charles Manson that went on to commit an infamous series of bloody murders, putting an end to the dream of California's counterculture movement. To say that everyone close to this church-going, white-collar 'soccer mom' was surprised is an understatement.

It to a certain extent Dianne had no choice in her confession. A phone call had come out of the blue from Sergeant Paul Dostie, from Mammoth Lakes Police Department. Dostie, his team and his cadaver dog Buster were going back to Barker Ranch, the last location of the Manson Family before their arrest, to search for the bodies of undiscovered victims. This was based on information from Inyo County Undersheriff Jack Gardiner, who adopted Dianne after the Manson trial. Sergeant Dostie believed that Gardiner had been tipped off by Dianne. His was just a courtesy call - like it or not everyone would soon know about this short but significantly dark part of her history, and it was now up to Dianne who they learned it from.

It was finally time for Dianne to redress the untruths and misconceptions written about her place in the Family, and tell the world how she went from being the eldest child of a normal, white-bread, Midwest US family to a member of the notorious Californian hippie cult.

Your early family life, before you met Charles Manson, sounds like it ran in parallel with the hippie movement - is that right?

Yes. We weren't always that way. My dad was an up-and-coming artist and we lived in Minnesota. He was interested in the Beatnik movement in Berkeley with Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg and that crowd. He wanted to go to California, so he traded our house for a trailer and then the car couldn't pull the trailer... so that sorted that. A few years later he left my mum to go to California, then two years [after that] he wanted her back. So we came out to California and got established in Santa Monica.

They were really at the height of their careers at that point, when my mum got turned onto marijuana. She brought it back to my dad, and that was kind of the beginning when my dad got involved with a commune called the Oracle to do artwork for their newspaper. Then a group of them

lost their lease, wherever they were staying, so they moved in with us.

Then my parents decided to do the dropout thing, which was to sell everything you have and move into a camper - and in our case my dad converted a bread truck into a camper. They took us out of school, down the road we went and that's where our adventures in hippie-dom began.

It sounds quite exciting.

Moving to Santa Monica was an upheaval. I didn't like moving from Minnesota. I'd just finished sixth grade and had two years of being pretty solid even without my dad. Then after two years in Santa Monica I finally got used to California, accepted and grew to love it. It was summertime when I left, just about the end of summer and I should have been going to high school but of course didn't... and I loved school. I was a bit torn about that, but on the other hand it seemed like a new and exciting adventure. My parents had convinced us all that this was the new way to live.

This was the cutting edge and Timothy Leary was touting LSD as if it was a sacrament, that it would bring world peace and everyone's mind would be opened to

the 'bigger truth' kind of thing. I was going for that but it wasn't very long after that I didn't want to live in the van with my parents. An opportunity came. I had this epiphany that I heard God telling me it was time to leave home. I told my parents about it and they wrote me a note that gave me emancipation as a minor, then lived with a couple that we met along the road.

That was kind of the beginning - there are other adventures that you can read about in the book before I ended up back with my parents, at a new commune called the Hog Farm. I wasn't really welcomed there by the leader because I was an underage female that was sexually active. They considered me 'jailbait' and they weren't comfortable with me being there. That's when another couple invited me to stay with them and secretly introduced me to Charles Manson and the girls.

Describe what it was like for you, to meet him and to be around him.

Charlie and the girls were living in the house that I had lived in for a couple of months previously, and when I walked in they all knew me! 'Dianne Dianne! Charlie - Dianne is here!' I didn't know that these people knew me, I didn't know how they knew me until a little bit later. It turns out that Charlie and the girls had taken the bus and gone up to the Hog Farm commune, and my family had actually taken a trip out to the desert over a weekend with them. I was in San Francisco. Charlie and the girls were going to San Francisco and so my mum gave him my picture.

That's how he knew me but it was just a very magical experience. He was this

ABOVE
Dianne's first time at the Hog Farm hippie commune with her parents before being introduced to Manson.

BELOW
This photo of Dianne (right) and her family was taken just after her mum and dad had reunited in Santa Monica.

impish long wavy haired - you know, he was just another hippie dude that played the guitar at that point, he had women that adored him.

So he was attractive, someone to gravitate towards?

Yeah. At that point I was 14, but I had come from a place where I wasn't really welcome even though my parents were there. My mum and dad had both kind of bought into the idea that in the commune, all the adults took care of all the kids. And at 14 I was just a kid - which I realise now but I didn't then, as most teenagers think their parents

AGE OF AQUARIUS

HE COMMANDED THE LOYALTY OF DOZENS OF WOMEN AND MEN, WAS ABLE TO FREELOAD HIS FAMILY ACROSS CALIFORNIA AND EVEN GOT INTO THE GOOD GRACES OF CELEBRITIES. HOW DID MANSON DO IT?

It's difficult for recent generations to imagine why dozens would so blindly follow this unremarkable-looking ex-con, however charming he might have been. But the late 60s in California was a very different place. By the time Manson stepped out of prison in 1967, after serving nearly seven years for trying to cash a forged treasury cheque, American society had made a significant shift into the hippie movement. For the attention-hungry sociopath Manson, it must have seemed like a dream come true. Here was a body of people espousing acceptance and free love who claimed to shun personal possessions. Many operated an open door policy, where strangers could literally walk into their houses and partake in their food, their drugs and even their lovemaking.

Manson's criminal history didn't hinder his acceptance into the Californian hippie community - if anything, it accelerated it: the authorities had it on record that Manson had 'stuck it to the man' as far as the community was concerned. By the time he was introduced to surf pop royalty Dennis Wilson, he had honed his craft to perfection. The door to Wilson's home was opened by the counterculture movement and it took just a little cunning, plus the adulation from a gaggle of girls, for Charles Manson and company to move in.



are dumb as rocks. In a lot of ways I was a typical teenager, I was the first-born and I was always quite capable. So my mum thought of me really as a sister in the commune.

I don't think they realised that the leader of the commune had come to me and let me know that I wasn't really welcome there because I was jailbait, otherwise things might have gone differently.

Were you aware that you were looking to belong to something because your parents had effectively let you go?

Right [I wanted to find my own way in the world. They hadn't rejected me they just hadn't enfolded me as their daughter because they'd already given me emancipation... anyway, it was just kind of an odd time. I didn't think of myself as actively looking to belong, but I was. When I look back at it, I definitely was. That's how I got involved with Charlie and the girls, and it just went from there. And a year later it just turned awful.

What year was this?

We didn't have calendars, we didn't have watches, we didn't watch television, we didn't read the newspaper and so... it's probably about a year later. When I met Charlie it was '67, so it probably was in '68, when the 'White Album' came out. It was probably around sometime after that, two or three months after the 'White Album' came out that Charlie started saying that The Beatles were giving him a message. He'd been talking about the black-white race war that was going to happen and we'd been going up to the desert, and he'd been preparing us to live in the desert while this apocalypse happened. Then 'The White Album' came out and that put a name and this is my perception

that's when it became 'Helter Skelter', this black-white race war. That the blacks were going to overcome the whites, we were going to be tucked away in the desert and then come back to help repopulate... I don't know. Just crazy, craziness.

I was supposed to stay in the desert and I hadn't. I'd come back and Charlie

“ASPECTS OF CHARLIE'S PERSONALITY WERE SIMILAR TO MY DAD, BUT I THOUGHT OF HIM MORE AS A LOVER... THAN AS A FATHER FIGURE”

was really angry with me. He found my parents and tried to hook me back up with them. But I was just far ~~too uncomfortable~~ by Charlie at that point. I didn't fit with my parents, they were boarding parents for an alternative high school and they had kids my age staying with them. I just couldn't handle it so I went back to Charlie and he found another place for me. Eventually he accepted me back into the Family. I was so steeped in Charlie-talk and thinking, I just couldn't relate to the rest of the world.

Did you feel anything sinister about Charlie and the Family before Helter Skelter?

No, we were just another commune, one of many. But Charlie had this idea. He'd spent



ABOVE

Hugh Ramsey was 'Wavy' - my car-sharing farm commune and is a well-known peace activist today.

BELOW LEFT

Dianne had no idea that her dad had already spoken to Manson and even given him her picture, so that he could look out for her on his travels with the Family in California.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

The Family held up in Barker Ranch, a set of humbledown houses on the edge of Death Valley.

OPPOSITE PAGE BELOW

The owner of SoCal Ranch, George Spahn, allowed the family to stay in relative sexual freedom.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM RIGHT

Dianne's father Clarence gave his photograph to Manson after he challenged Clarence on his belief that racism was a happy thing. He said

a lot of time in jail, and this black-white race war thing he'd got - according to him - from the inmates. So he'd been indoctrinated into this thinking.

Going back and writing the story, I realise that I really was a victim and Charlie was a predator. He'd got out of jail and stepped into this culture of free love and acceptance, and I'm sure he just went 'Wow! I can do this.' He was a charmer, he could become whatever other people needed, that was part of his charm, part of his magnetism. Number one, he had an uncanny ability to read people and immediately know who they were, where they'd come from, what they needed, where their weaknesses were and all of that. It was unbelievable how he could hone in on that, and then he could reflect what it was that person needed in him. That was part of his genius, that was how he made it in the world. He would teach that to us, but at the same time I didn't recognise that I was being manipulated as much as I was. And being used - he did have this... I don't know if 'sinister' is the right word, but he did have this background and he could be violent. He could be angry but most of the time we never really knew what he could be thinking.

You mention Manson's mood swings as being similar to your father's - was that partly what drew you to him?

I don't really think that. I think that there were aspects of Charlie's personality that were similar to my dad, but I thought of him more as a lover in the beginning than as a father figure.





Manson left you completely out of the picture of his Tate-LaBianca murder plan. How did you feel when you discovered what they had done?

Oh my gosh, I was just... I had briefly been arrested for vagrancy or whatever when we were waiting for the rest of the Family to catch up with us before we headed out to Goier Wash in Death Valley. I had been briefly taken in [and Tex Watson] didn't know that I was gone for two days, certainly gone for a night. He had gone looking for me and when I showed up, in the process of looking for me, Tex had grabbed this newspaper. So when I came

back, he was like "Where have you been?" Then he showed me the newspapers, which were the Tate-LaBianca murder headlines. He slapped the papers down and said "I did this! Charlie told me to!"

I took it as a threat. Like, "You need to stay here or look what can happen!" He didn't say that, but that was the message that I got. Like I said, we didn't watch television, read newspapers or listen to the radio either, so I knew nothing about these murders, and I was just shocked and horrified. I was just in the jail and I didn't know anything about it. But it wasn't just like I could run away, so I stayed, ended up

HELTER SKELTER

It's a common misconception that Manson took inspiration from the Beatles to form his 'Helter Skelter' prophecy. In fact, he'd been preaching about a race war to his followers long before that. He thought that the 'White Album' was proof that The Beatles shared his vision.

SIDE 1 TRACK 5 WILD HONEY PIE

This song convinced Manson that the Beatles wanted Jesus (Manson) to come to England. The Family subsequently bombarded The Beatles with letters and phone calls in an effort to convince them to come to America to join them instead.

SIDE 1 TRACK 8 HAPPINESS IS A WARM GUN

As if he needed any incentive to violence, here was the biggest band in the world supposedly telling the family to take up arms.

SIDE 2 TRACK 12 PIGGIES

The "piggies" were "the man" that The Beatles said needed a "damn good whacking". Atkins and company left "pig" and "piggies" screwed in blood at the site of the murders, after Manson told his followers to "leave a sign".

SIDE 2 TRACK 13 ROCKY RACCOON

For Manson, The Beatles were clearly using a racial slur for a black person and thought that "Rocky's revival" meant that The Beatles, too, believed that black people were going to take back the power.

SIDE 3 TRACK 5 SEXY SADIE

The Family was given fake identity cards to throw the cops off their scent whenever they were arrested. Dianna's was 'Dianna Bluestein' while Susan Atkins's was 'Sadie Mae Glue'. As far as Manson was concerned, when he encountered this track on the *White Album*, the name was no coincidence. The Beatles were singing to them.

SIDE 3 TRACK 6 HELTER SKELTER

Manson didn't know that a helter skelter is British English for a spiral slide, and thought The Beatles were talking about a sudden explosion of racial violence.

SIDE 4 TRACK 12 REVOLUTION 9

The title obviously held significance for Manson. He heard pigs creaking, machine gun fire and the word 'hell' in this lyric-less piece of audio.



FINAL

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

LINK 11 MURDER TO TATE KOOKS



Susan Atkins, 31, is charged with the murder of Sharon Tate after pleading not guilty to the slayings. She was charged in the Tate slaying.



'Satan': Leader of a Weird Cult

Charles Manson, 34, charged with leading the "Hells Angels" cult, is charged with the murder of Sharon Tate after pleading not guilty to the slayings. He was charged in the Tate slaying.

House Backs Nixon on Viet, 333-55

Times Page 1

in the desert, running and doing survival missions... just craziness. That's where the girls told me about their participation in the murders. I was just dazed, in shock

So was it a relief when you were arrested?

(Kind of. But in Inyo County [Cal.] we were all in the same cell together. So there was a lot of admonishing not to tel. of what we knew was going on, because they hadn't arrested us for the murders, we'd been arrested for burning this road grader. It was in that process that Susan Atkins, who had a warrant out for her arrest, was taken away to L.A., and that's when she told her cellmate about Charlie's position in her life - our lives - as a semi-god. She started telling her cellmate about Helter Skelter and her participation in these murders. Her cellmate told [the cops] and that's how it all started to unravel.

It wasn't until they took us girls to testify in front of the grand jury that I felt sane and safe enough, when the bailiff asked me what my name was, that I told the truth. That was the first time since I was arrested in October - and this was

December - that I had told anyone my real name and age.

And then you were taken aside?

And then I was taken aside and not put with the girls anymore. Then all the detectives started coming and asking me questions. It was shortly after that they made me ward of the court because I was underage, then they sent me to Patton State Hospital, which is a mental hospital, for observation. Then the observation turned into treatment and I ended up being there for all of nine months. I think that they did that not because I needed that form of help - although I think I did - but I think that it was really a way that they could get away with keeping me safe and rehabilitating me to the point that I could testify.

It was my arresting officer, Jack Gardiner who took me in as his foster child. It really helped complete my healing because he gave me back my self-worth... he had two kids younger than me and he had tremendous faith and compassion. And that completed my re-entry into humanity as a useful unit of society.

ABOVE

Roman Polanski, the husband of murdered Sharon Tate, sits in utter disbelief of his wife's spattered portrait.

LEFT

The front page of New York's Daily News on Manson's links to the recent murders.



What was it like to testify against Charles Manson? Were you scared?

Yes. I was very worried that he still had power over me. When I saw him and the girls outside the courthouse and in the courthouse, it quickly dissipated. I thought "Oh my gosh, he's just this little con." The girls, I just couldn't relate to them any more.

If Jack Gardiner hadn't fostered you, where do you think you would have been today?

I don't know. If I had not been able to get over hearing Charlie's voice in my head and the girls that contacted me again, they might have been able to take revenge because I told the truth or... I don't know. They tried to kill one other girl. I give all the glory really to God, for keeping me safe and sane and getting me through that darkness.

Do you think that the Manson Family could have happened today without the hippie movement?

No... but then who knows? Just like this couple who had their kids chained, starved, showered once a year.

You mean the Turpins? Only recently?

Only recently. I mean, how bizarre is that? And they were living in a neighborhood with regular people and nobody knew, and communes do still exist but it's not as out there as it used to be. Back in the 1960s, this was a new and up-and-coming way of life. I think what happened in the Manson Family made it all go underground. It was no longer as big of a movement, I think. I think it really did end that 1960s way of thinking. I've learned that young children - kids that were maybe ten years old when the murders happened and the Manson Family became notorious - that [to them] Charles Manson had become the boogeyman. When I was a kid it was Jack



“THE GIRLS THAT CONTACTED ME AGAIN... THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE REVENGE BECAUSE I TOLD THE TRUTH”

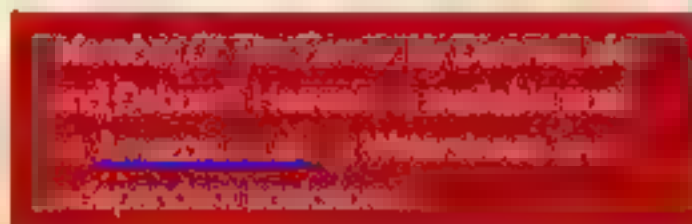
the Ripper, but Manson took that role. For a lot of my life I had no idea

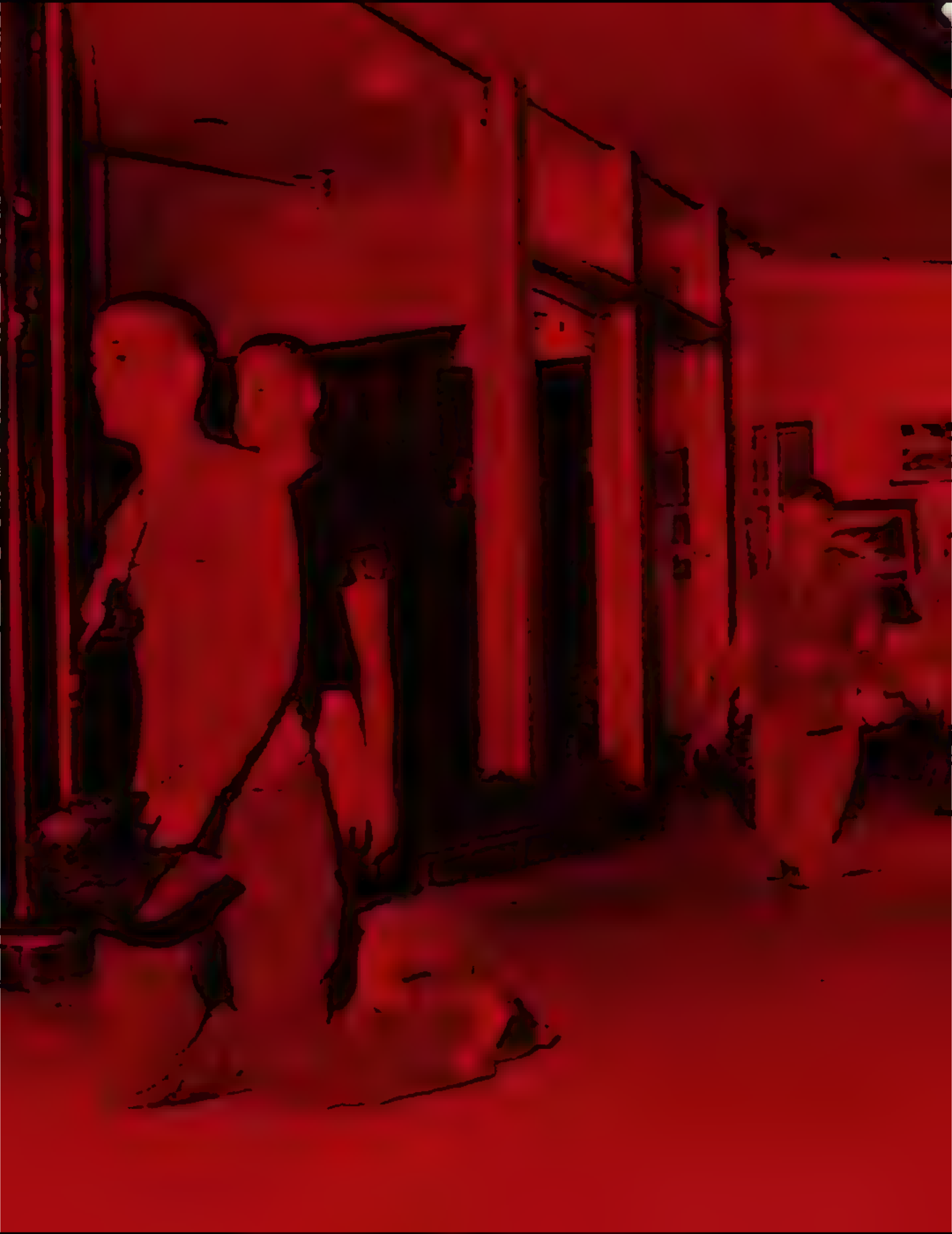
we lived in the same community for over 35 years now, belonged to the same church for 20-plus years, another for five years. People who knew me—our kids played soccer, baseball or whatever—it's just been a jaw-dropper for them. “What? What? Really?” I always thought of you as the church lady, a member of the choir. My sons-in-laws told me that I did the robust soccer mom cover really well.

But I didn't think of it. I didn't read the books [until I wrote mine]. I had no idea how many books, documentaries, blogs are out there—I really didn't know the scope of the interest in this subject matter, other than Charlie becoming a icon of evil. Some screenplays have even been written, kind of from my perspective, without ever talking to me. Writing this story was a way to tell my truth and have it come from me.

ABOVE
Katherine Van Housen and Atkins, 2015, as if they couldn't care less as they're taken to trial for murder.

RIGHT
Dianne (males) and children, 2017, on a return to Spain March.





AFTERMATH

- 110–113. The Manson Family's long shadow
- 114–117. More Manson murders...?
- 118–119. Where are they now?
- 120–123. Icon of evil
- 124–127. The death of a madman

THE MANSON FAMILY'S LONG SHADOW

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TATE-LABIANCA TRIALS, MEMBERS OF THE MANSON FAMILY CONTINUED TO TERRORISE AMERICA WITH THEIR CRIMES AND THREATS

BY KING



On 26 September 1970, the ramshackle collection of buildings at Spahn Ranch burned to the ground in a mysterious fire. Police had their suspicions, believing that Manson's followers had set the fire as some kind of vague reminder that they remained free to terrify America. If that was the intent, it backfired. The country was already terrified; the fire only managed to deprive the remaining Family members of a place to live. Left homeless, they scattered and their power dissipated, though they continued their efforts on his behalf.

On 21 August 1971, Manson Family members Mary Brunner, Cathettine Share, Lawrence Bailey, Kenneth Como and Dennis Rice stormed the Western Surplus Store in Hawthorne, California. They hoped to steal a large cache of arms, which they could then use to shoot their way into the

Los Angeles International Airport and hijack a 747 already loaded with passengers at the terminal. According to this plan, one passenger was to be executed every hour until Manson and the rest of his imprisoned Family members were released. The gang looted the store's cash registers and had seized some 150 guns, loading them into a waiting van, when an employee managed to trip a silent alarm. Within minutes police had the store surrounded. Determined to evade arrest, Share opened fire, hitting the windscreen of a police car. For the next half hour, a dramatic shootout ensued, with gunfire exchanged from both sides as more than 30 armed police officers arrived on the scene. In the ensuing gunfight, Share, Brunner and Bailey were all shot, though not seriously injured, before police were able to move in and arrest the group. As

“DANGEROUS MEMBERS OF MANSON'S FAMILY STILL ROAMED THE STREETS”

ABOVE
Charles Manson is brought in to hear the trial arguments in the Tate-Labianca trial

a result, Brunner and Share were both convicted and sentenced to several years in prison. The Hawthorne Shootout, as the incident came to be called, was a stark reminder that dangerous members of Manson's Family still roamed the American streets in freedom.

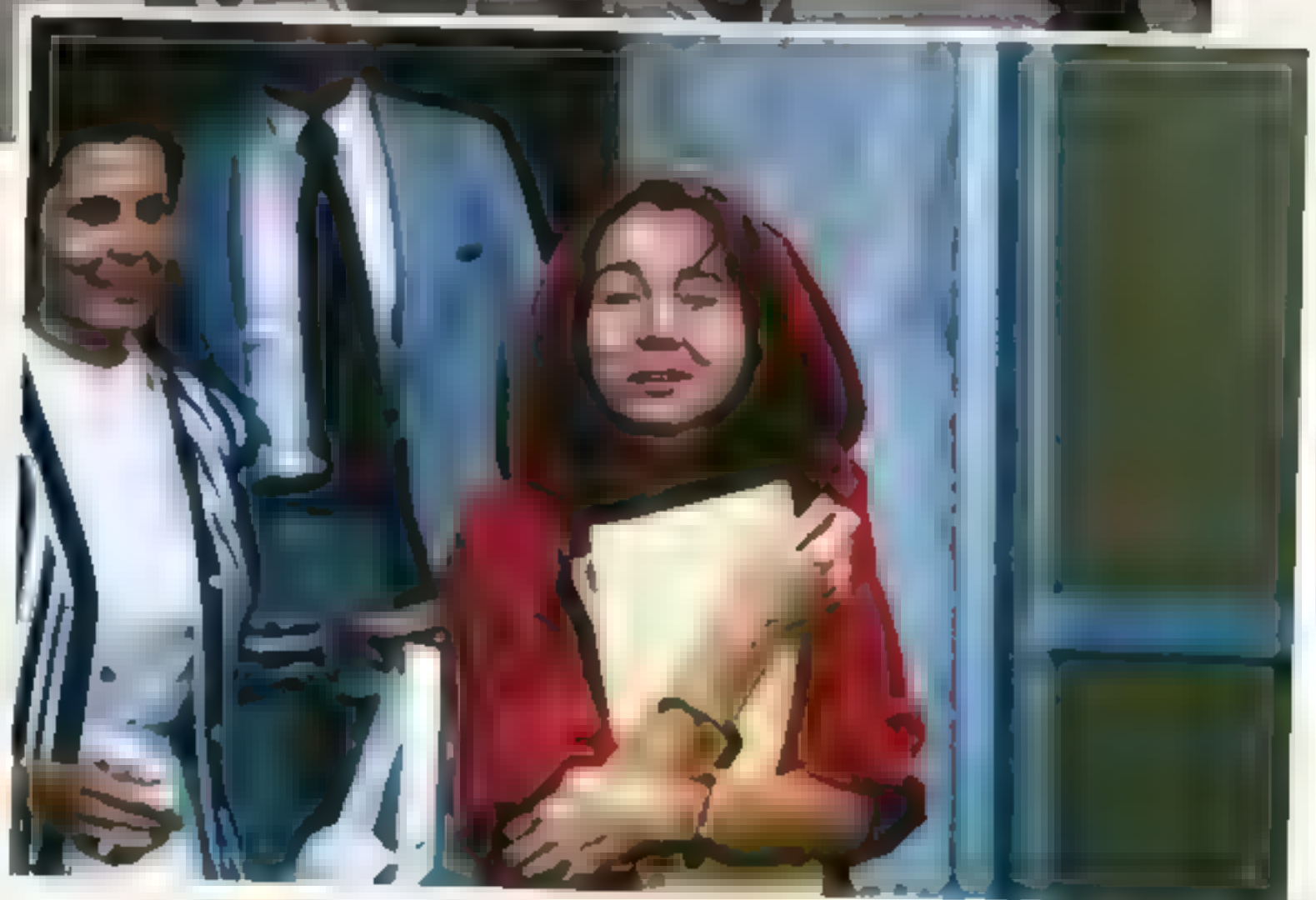
Just a year later, there was another horrific development. Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme had been freed from jail in 1971, after serving a sentence for attempting to feed an LSD-laced hamburger to Family member Barbara Hoyt to prevent her from



President Ford being rushed away as an attempt is made on his life

RIGHT Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme leaving the courthouse following her first hearing on the charge of attempted assassination of President Gerald R. Ford

testifying at trial. Fromme moved into a house in Stockton with fellow Family member Nancy Pirman, as well as Priscilla Cooper, Michael Monfort and James Craig, the latter two members of the Aryan Brotherhood. On 8 November 1972, police discovered the half-buried body of James Willett in a forested area outside of town: he had been shot and decapitated. Three days later, Stockton Police found Willett's car sitting outside of the house where Fromme lived; when they raided the property, they found the body of Willett's wife Lauren, shot to death, in the basement, and her young daughter in the care of the people who lived there. Pirman, Cooper, Monfort and Craig were all arrested. Fromme was not at the house but, in a stroke of bad luck, she happened to telephone the residence when police were investigating. Thinking the man on the other end of the line was a friend, she asked someone to pick her up. A police car soon collected her, and Fromme joined the others in jail. Fromme insisted she had nothing to do with the two deaths, and had been away from the house when they had occurred. Investigations supported her version of events and, although authorities kept her in custody for nearly



three months, they could never build a case against her. She was eventually released; her four comrades were not as lucky, and were all convicted in the two murders.

Fromme left Stockton and soon reunited with fellow Manson Family member Sandra Good in Sacramento, where the two shared a dingy attic apartment. With most of their fellow Family members incarcerated, it was left to Fromme and Good to maintain

the shattered vestiges of Manson's terrifying group. They became the public face of Manson's latest obsession, the environment. "The reality of the holocaust is with the dead fish that you see in the ocean," he said. "It's when you go and see where a forest used to be, there's a shopping mall. Where a lake used to be, there's a drive-in. Where the freeway is, there used to be a creek and a river."

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOS: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



Manson had previously offered up such vague environmental pronouncements, though they had never really formed a central tenet of his philosophy until it became convenient for him to try to shift the narrative away from the murders and on to a less contentious subject. To promote this idea, Manson declared himself the founder of a new religion, the Order of the Rainbow. Manson rechristened Fromme and Good with the names of Red and Blue. The first given to Fromme, represented the California Redwoods, while Good's new nickname was meant to suggest the ocean. The pair of devotees soon became familiar figures in Sacramento, dressed in long capes in their respective colours, as they warned of the International People's Court of Retribution, a terrorist group – apparently consisting only of Fromme and Good – that would punish offending politicians.

When Fromme learned that US President Gerald Ford was slated to visit Sacramento, she decided to take matters into her own hands and assassinate him. A friend gave her a pistol and some ammunition after she claimed she needed protection from Manson's enemies, and

ABOVE
Members of Manson's cult walked 15 miles in the rain from Sunset Strip to As Harriet, taken in protest at his trial for the murders of Gary Hinman.

RIGHT
The pistol used in the assassination attempt appears, Gerald Ford.

BOTTOM RIGHT
President Ford is met by his family in Washington DC, hours after the attempted assassination.

showed her how to load and fire the weapon. On 5 September 1975, Fromme donned her long red cape and tucked the Colt .45-calibre semi-automatic pistol into a holster strapped to her leg before wandering over to Sacramento's Capitol Park, where Ford would be greeting the public. She waited in the crowd as he moved down the line, shaking hands, when he was just two feet in front of her. Fromme pulled out her gun, lunged forward, and pulled the trigger. There was a click, but nothing happened, and a Secret Service agent quickly wrestled her to the ground. "It wouldn't go off!" Fromme shouted. "Can you believe it? It didn't go off!"

After the fact, and in an attempt to ease her prison sentence, Fromme insisted that she had deliberately ejected the round to be fired from the gun's chamber and had not meant to harm the president. Indeed, a bullet was later discovered on the bathroom floor in her apartment. But her immediate exclamations of surprise that the gun didn't fire undermine this assertion. If she had only meant to confront Ford over the destruction of California's Redwood trees, why did she need a gun? The most likely explanation is that she



ATWA

IN THE 1970s MANSON BEGAN TO PUSH A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT TO SHIFT ATTENTION FROM HIS CRIMES

ATWA is an acronym Manson created to designate his environmental philosophy. Standing for Air, Trees, Water, and Animals, the idea was to promote natural preservation while deriding all modern trappings: cars, and electricity, according to this view, were just as bad for the environment as logging and man-made dams. Manson insisted that such care for the Earth had always been his only goal – an ironic claim given the extent to which his Family left the pristine countryside around Spahn and Barker ranches strewn with discarded auto parts, trash, and other debris from their tenures. After Sandra Good was released from prison, she established an ATWA website, and continued Manson's arguments against "industrial progress". According to Good, Manson's "vision of life on Earth has inspired many people worldwide to learn about living in balance with the planet." She incorporated ATWA as a California Non-Profit Organization and continues to promote its ideas. "There is a war being waged upon Life," she says. "ATWA is a unified movement to re-direct human efforts of war towards the problem. War on the problem, war on pollution" but not, as she is careful to note, "not a war on life." The ideas – of sustainability and replanting – coincide with much current thinking about the environment, but the coupling of these efforts with Good's insistence that Manson was a political prisoner maligned by history undermines what might otherwise have been a noble effort.

simply didn't understand that she needed to pull the slide back to load a bullet into the chamber for the gun to fire. Ironically, just a few weeks later, President Ford escaped another assassination attempt, this one by a disgruntled woman named Sara Jane Moore.

The trial was quick: on 26 November a jury found Fromme guilty of attempted assassination of the president. Under a federal law passed in 1965 in the wake of John F. Kennedy's assassination, conviction in an attempt on the life of the president brought an automatic term of life in prison. In December, Fromme was moved to the Anderson Federal Corrections Institute in West Virginia to begin serving her sentence.

Fromme's conviction and imprisonment left Sandra Good as the only free high-profile Family member and Manson's



TOP LEFT
Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme's
yearbook photo

ABOVE
Lynette 'Squeaky' Fromme (left)
and Sandra Pugh
sit in court

“IT WOULDN'T GO OFF!” FROMME SHOUTED. “CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? IT DIDN'T GO OFF!”

principal public representative. She continued the threats on behalf of the International People's Court of Retribution, a list which named a number of officials in the government as well as business executives as enemies, was released and violence against them and their families was threatened if they continued to pollute the Earth. Unwisely, she followed this up with radio interviews, in which she continued to make public threats against a number of named officials and businessmen. Reaction was swift: on 22

December 1975 Good and another Manson devotee, Susan Murphy, were indicted. The charges included "conspiring to commit offenses against the United States by causing to be delivered by the Postal Service according to the directions thereon, letters addressed to persons, containing threats to injure the person, addressee and others." A jury found Good guilty and in April 1976 she was sentenced to 15 years in prison. With her arrest, the last of the hardcore Manson Family members was finally off the streets.

MORE MANSON MURDERS....?

MANSON'S FAMILY WERE CONVICTED OF NINE MURDERS BETWEEN THEM. THEY MAY HAVE COMMITTED MANY MORE FOR WHICH THEY WERE NEVER CHARGED

WORDS ROBERT WALSH



Since the convictions of Manson and his followers there has been speculation that they had committed many other murders for which they went unpunished. This currently remains only speculation, nothing so far confirms any further killings by the Manson Family.

Some alleged victims were indirectly or directly linked to the Family. The deaths of others bore similarities with crimes known to have been committed by Manson or his followers. Still more were total

strangers without Family links of any kind. Whether all, some or none of them were murdered by Manson's followers is unclear.

It's important not to assume their guilt based purely on the crimes for which they were convicted. Those crimes were senseless, bloody and brutal, but notoriety and guilt are not the same. Simply because the Family seemed capable of anything, that doesn't necessarily prove them guilty of everything.

ABOVE

Charles Manson arrives in court. Manson's Family were convicted of committing many murders. They may actually have been responsible for many more.

Debra Tate (sister of victim Sharon Tate) firmly believes the Family committed many more murders that remain unsolved. She has spent much of her time campaigning against the parole of former Family members and has no doubt that they killed additional victims.

On 1 November 1969, Family member Susan Atkins allegedly admitted they'd committed at least three other murders and regular rumours have surfaced since then. There haven't, however, been any

conclusively attributed either to Manson or his followers. Atkins took the truth of her remarks to the grave. She died on 24 September 2009 while still serving her life sentence for eight murders.

Lawyer Billy Boyd, who represented follower Charles 'Tex' Watson, died in 2009. Boyd kept over 20 hours of taped conversations from his time representing Watson. He claimed that Manson had admitted additional murders to Watson, while denying his client had any responsibility. According to Boyd, Manson told Watson he'd committed a number of unsolved murders while acting alone. Despite pressure from investigators, the tapes have yet to be released.

Speculation puts the alleged total at over a dozen. Some had links to the Family; others were seemingly random acts of violence. They could have been committed by Family members, but might just as easily have been by others. So who were the dozen or so potential victims whose murders remain officially unsolved?

Manna Habe was only 17 years old when her body was discovered. The daughter of writer Hans Habe and actor Eloise Hardt, Habe had been abducted from her own

BELOW LEFT

Debra Tate, Sharon's younger sister, firmly believes there were more victims. She also campaigns heavily to keep Manson's followers behind bars.

ABOVE

Manson's attorneys Ronald Hughes (left) and Paul Fitzgerald.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Julius Kerasián testified against Manson in return for immunity from prosecution. The Family portrayed her not as Manson's mistress, but as the mastermind.

“SIMPLY BECAUSE THE FAMILY SEEMED CAPABLE OF ANYTHING, THAT DOESN'T PROVE THEM GUILTY OF EVERYTHING”

driveway on 28 December 1968. She was found beaten and stabbed to death near Mulholland Drive four days later.

19-year-old Reet Jurvetson was found on 16 November 1969. Stabbed over 150 times, her body was found near Mulholland Drive within five miles of the home of film director Roman Polanski, Sharon Tate's ex-partner. She was discovered near where Manna Habe had been found.

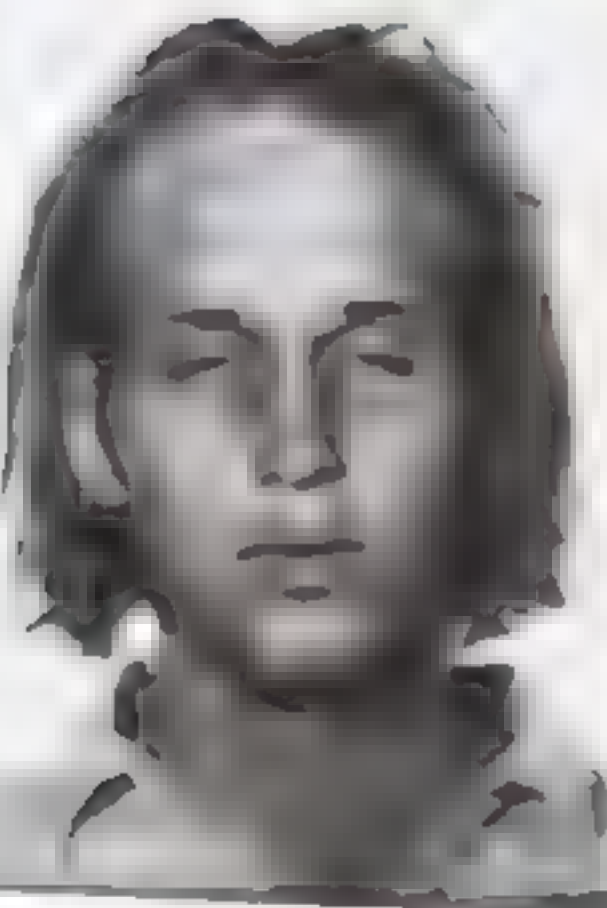
Laurence Merrick was a documentary film-maker who had made a film about the Family titled *Manson*. Finally released in 1973 after years of legal difficulties and the initial convictions of Manson and several Family members, his film may have upset either Family members or supporters. He was also Sharon Tate's former acting coach. Merrick was shot dead outside his studio on 26 January 1977. The murder was initially thought to be linked to the Manson Family, however, in 1981 an unemployed actor confessed to the killing.

Nancy Warren and Cinda Delaney were found near Ukiah, California in October 1968 having been strangled, beaten and tied up with leather thongs. The thongs were similar to those used to bind Manson victim Leno LaBianca. Warren was also eight months pregnant just as Sharon Tate had been when she was murdered. Some of Manson's followers were apparently in the area at the time of the murders, but they still remain unsolved.

Mark Walts was a young man who used to hang around the Spahn Ranch. Once used as a set for Westerns and TV, the ranch later became home to some of Manson's followers. He went fishing near Santa Monica Pier on 17 July 1969 and vanished, leaving his fishing rod behind. He was found dead near Mulholland Drive the next day, having been beaten and stabbed to death.

Manson's father was never officially identified. His alleged uncle Darwin Scott





was found dead in May 1969 while Manson was on parole in California for previous offences. Manson wasn't keeping proper contact with his parole officers when Scott's body was discovered, repeatedly stabbed, at his home in Ashland, Kentucky on 27 May 1969.

James Sharp and Doreen Gaul were breakaway Scientologists involved with a splinter group known as 'The Process'. Manson himself was also interested in L Ron Hubbard's beliefs at one time. Both Gaul and Sharp were found stabbed to death in a Los Angeles alleyway in November 1969.

Manson follower Bruce Davis had visited the Process headquarters in London. He had also injured Manson victim Gary Hunn and taken part in the murder of Donald Shea at Spahn's Ranch in August 1969. Process members also visited Manson in prison. Once described as Manson's right-hand man, Davis remains in prison.

Joel Pugh's death at the Talgart Hotel in London has also been suggested as another

LEFT

Susan Atkins, a reportedly admitted to at least three other Manson murders. She died in 2009, never confirming or denying the claim.

LEFT MIDDLE

Slave Grogan, a pedophile, Donald Shea, who took police to Shea's unmarked grave near the Spahn Ranch.

LEFT BOTTOM

Once married to Joe Pugh, Sandra Blue Good was one of Manson's followers.

BELOW

George Spahn, owner of the Spahn Ranch.

potential murder. Pugh was found dead in December 1969. Both his wrists had been cut and his throat had been slashed twice. Pugh was married to Sandra Blue Good, one of Manson's later followers.

Pugh's death was ruled a drug-induced suicide, coming at a time when a number of Manson's followers were being arrested. Bruce Davis had been in London earlier in 1969, but his whereabouts at the time of Pugh's death remain unclear.

John 'Zero' Haught had moved from Ohio to join Manson's followers at the Spahn Ranch. He'd also been one of those arrested when police raided the ranch in October 1969. According to Manson's followers, Haught died while playing Russian roulette on 5 November 1969 at the group's new home in Venice Beach.

When investigating, police found it less than credible. The gun was still fully loaded when they arrived. It's possible Manson might have thought Haught would cooperate in exchange for leniency. The official verdict was still that Haught had taken his own life.





Why are none of these cases here yet? But in a case against Family members for murder, some seem quite likely, but they remain unproven.

One of the Family's former homes, the Barker Ranch in the Panamint Mountains near Death Valley, was searched in 2008 by investigators and officers from the Inyo County Sheriff's Office. This wasn't the first time one of the Family's former homes had come under scrutiny. Donald "Shorty" Shea was a stuntman, sometime actor and ranch hand, the Family's suspected informant on them. Shea disappeared on 26 August 1969 into a grave near the Spann Ranch, another Family home. Beaten and stabbed to death by Manson, Davis and Steve Grogan, Shea's body lay undiscovered until Grogan took police to the grave in December 1977.

In March 2008, signs were found of possible grave sites that may have included other victims. Police and investigators have been keen to clear up any rumours that resulted that there may be other undiscovered murders. Using a cadaver dog, ground penetrating radar, lasers, magnetometers and electronic 'sniffing' devices, investigators examined five possible sites, excavating four of them. Nothing illuminating was found, only a single bullet, some ashes identified as non-human and some animal bones.

When news networks came to Manson and Watson asking if there were any undiscovered bodies, Manson never responded. Watson offered no comment. He made it clear that no other killings had occurred at the Barker Ranch when he was

ABOVE
The Barker Ranch was searched in 2008 for other possible murder victims. It's still a ghost town.

RIGHT
Manson in 1971. He was charged with the murders of the four victims. He was sentenced to death but later had his sentence commuted to life in prison.

there but had no idea whether any further ones had occurred after he had left. Watson has been eligible for parole since November 1976 but remains in prison to this day. Having been denied parole 17 times, his notoriety as Manson's alleged second-in-command seems likely to keep him behind bars indefinitely.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALTHOUGH TIME HAS SCATTERED THE REMNANTS OF THE MANSON FAMILY, THE REMAINING MEMBERS CONTINUE TO EXERT A PULL ON THE PUBLIC'S FASCINATION

WORDS CREG KING



ROBERT BEAUSOLEIL

The man who actually carried out the Tate-LaBianca murders has consistently been denied parole. Declaring himself a born-again Christian, he founded a prison ministry and married, fathering four children under a now-defunct conjugal visits programme. Watson has blamed his actions on the influence of drugs and of Manson, and used his religion to proclaim himself forgiven. Yet he has actively tried to suppress taped conversations from 50 years ago in which he discussed his crimes with an attorney, and recently demanded that Wikipedia edit its entry on him to lessen his role in the murders.

Convicted of the murder of musician Gary Hinman, Beausoleil has spent his time in prison producing music, completing the soundtrack to Kenneth Anger's film *Lulu* for Rising, and developing synthesizers. On 3 January 2014, the California Board of Parole recommended that Beausoleil be released. However, following a 20-day review of the recommendation, Beausoleil was denied parole by the California Governor Gavin Newsom.



PAUL WATKINS

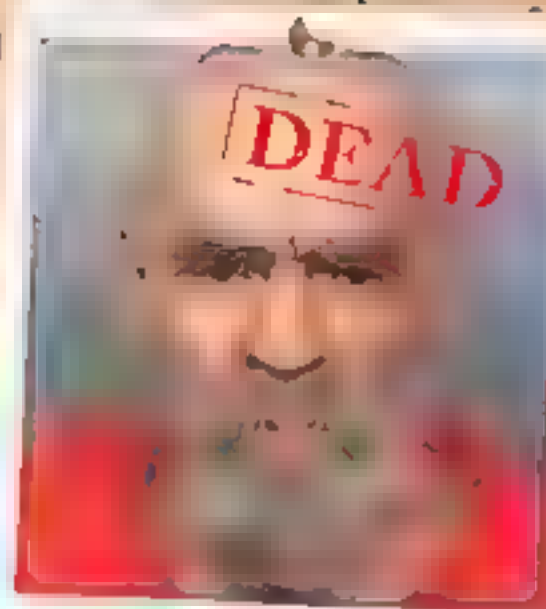
Watkins became one of the main witnesses in the Tate-LaBianca trial, testifying about Heller Skelton and Manson's philosophy. He continued to record songs with his friend and former Manson associate Brooks Poston, wrote a memoir, and gave lectures on the dangers of cults. In his later life he became President of the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce. He died of leukaemia in the summer of 1990.

Convicted for her role in the Hawthorne Shootout, Share was paroled in 1975. A decade of petty crimes followed. Finally released from prison, Share converted to Christianity and has frequently appeared in documentaries about Manson.



CATHERINE 'GYPSY' SHARE

The woman who had openly bragged about stabbing Sharon Tate and fasting her blood declared herself a born-again Christian in 1974, and followed this with a memoir, *Child of Satan, Child of God*, in which she blamed Manson and drugs for her role in the crimes. This minimisation of responsibility has become common among former Manson Family members. Atkins was consistently denied parole and frequently changed her story, insisting that she had stabbed no one at the Tate residence. In 2006 she was diagnosed with brain cancer and requested "compassionate release." This was denied, and she died on 24 September 2009 at the age of 61.



CHARLES MANSON

The infamous cult leader and convicted murderer died in 2017, but he retains a powerful legacy as one of history's most evil men.



CHARLES 'TEX' WATSON

After testifying in the Tate-LaBianca Trial, Linda Kasabian announced that she wanted to "find God" and raise her children. She returned to her native New Hampshire, where she had periodic brushes with the law. In 1997 she was arrested with one of her daughters for possession of methamphetamine, but the charges were dismissed after she completed drug education classes. In the last decade she has given several interviews, adding questionable details to her version of the murders. She was last known to be living near Seattle.



LINDA KASABIAN

After receiving an immunity deal for her role in Gary Hinman's death in exchange for her trial testimony, Mary Brunner remained a core Manson Family member. In 1971 she participated in the Hawthorne Shootout and was arrested. After serving a little over six years in prison, she was released. Brunner changed her name and is believed to be living in the Midwest.



MARY BRUNNER



LYNETTE 'SQUEAKY' FROMME

In 1987, Fromme made headlines when she escaped from prison in West Virginia; caught two days later, she explained that she had heard Manson was dying of cancer and wanted to see him again. Fromme spent the next 22 years in prison; on 14 August 2009 she was paroled. In 2018 she published a memoir, *Reflexion*, based on her time with the Family.



STEVE 'CLEM' GROGAN

Grogan was convicted of the murder of Donald 'Shorty' Shea and originally sentenced to death. The presiding judge thought Grogan was "too stupid" to have made any decisions on his own and imposed a sentence of life in prison. In 1977 Grogan contacted author Les and showed them where Shea's remains had been buried; the exhumation disproved Manson Family lore that the ranch hand had been decapitated and cut into nine pieces. In 1985 Grogan was paroled—the only member of the Manson Family convicted of murder to be set free as of this writing.

Although convicted of the LaBianca murders and sentenced to death, a court dismissed Van Houten's sentence in 1976 and ordered a new trial, saying that the disappearance of her attorney Ronald Hughes had placed her at a disadvantage. A 1977 trial resulted in a deadlock, a third in 1978 found her guilty and sentenced her to life in prison. Although she has minimized her responsibility for the crimes, the Parole Board has

found her suitable for release most recently in January 2019. However, in May 2019 California governor Gavin Newsom overruled the Parole Board's decision due to concerns about her potential for future violence.



LESLIE VAN HOUTEN



SUSAN ATKINS



PATRICIA KRENWINKEL

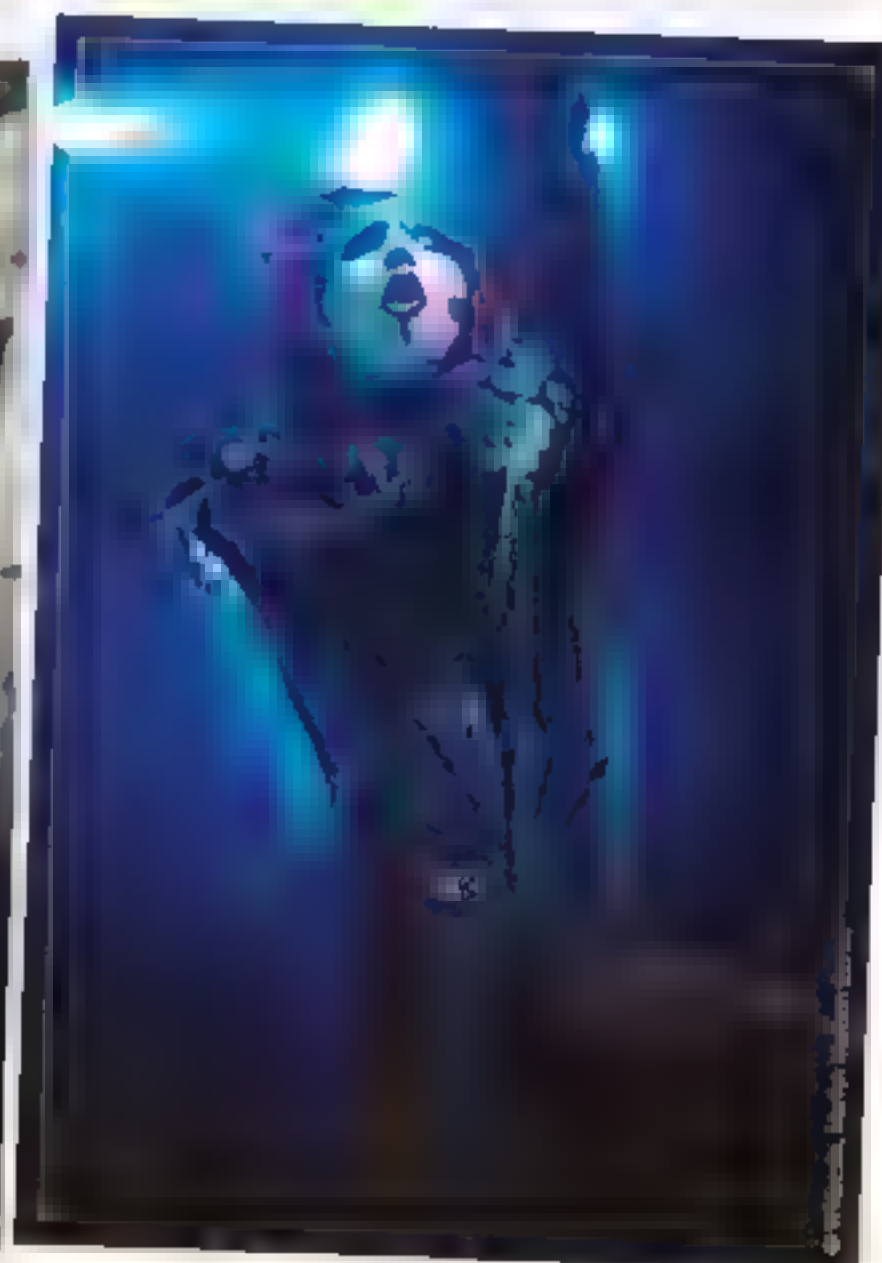
Convicted of the Tate-LaBianca murders, Patricia Krenwinkel remains incarcerated and has consistently been denied parole, despite the fact she of all former Family members is perhaps the most changed. Alone among the convicted killers, Krenwinkel has never blamed Manson or drugs for her actions. "Every day I wake up," she has said, "and know that I'm a destroyer of the most precious thing, which is life, and living with that is the most difficult thing of all, and I do that, because that's what I deserve, to wake up every morning and know that." Her next parole hearing is scheduled for 2022.



ICON OF EVIL

CHARLES MANSON NEVER BECAME FAMOUS FOR HIS ART. AND YET THE WORLDS OF ART AND CULTURE HELPED MAKE HIM FAMOUS. WE LOOK AT HOW THE 20TH CENTURY'S MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL BECAME AN ICON

WORDS JAMES MCMAHON



Though Charles Manson spent his life craving the status of rock star when he did make it onto the cover of the US music bible *Rolling Stone* on 25 June 1970 – it wouldn't be for his abilities as a musician or songwriter, but for his infamy as the 1960s' greatest boogeyman. "The incredible story of the most dangerous man alive" roared the cover line. Still, it could have been worse: the same year the underground newspaper *Tuesday's Child* named Manson their Man of the Year.

If Manson wasn't a pop-culture icon before the *Rolling Stone* cover, he certainly was after publication. He'd entered the pantheon of one-name celebrities – Elvis, Madonna, Oprah – who otherwise shared little in common with a man like Manson. "The name has become a metaphor for evil," wrote Vincent Bugliosi, Manson Family prosecutor and co-author of the seminal Manson tome *Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders*. Bugliosi continued, "and evil has its allure."

And so much like the British punks of the late 1970s would adopt the Nazi swastika as a symbol of shock, it is music –

ABOVE LEFT
Never one for a great deal of subtlety, Ozzy Osbourne's 1989 song *Bloodbath in Paradise* references the crimes of Manson

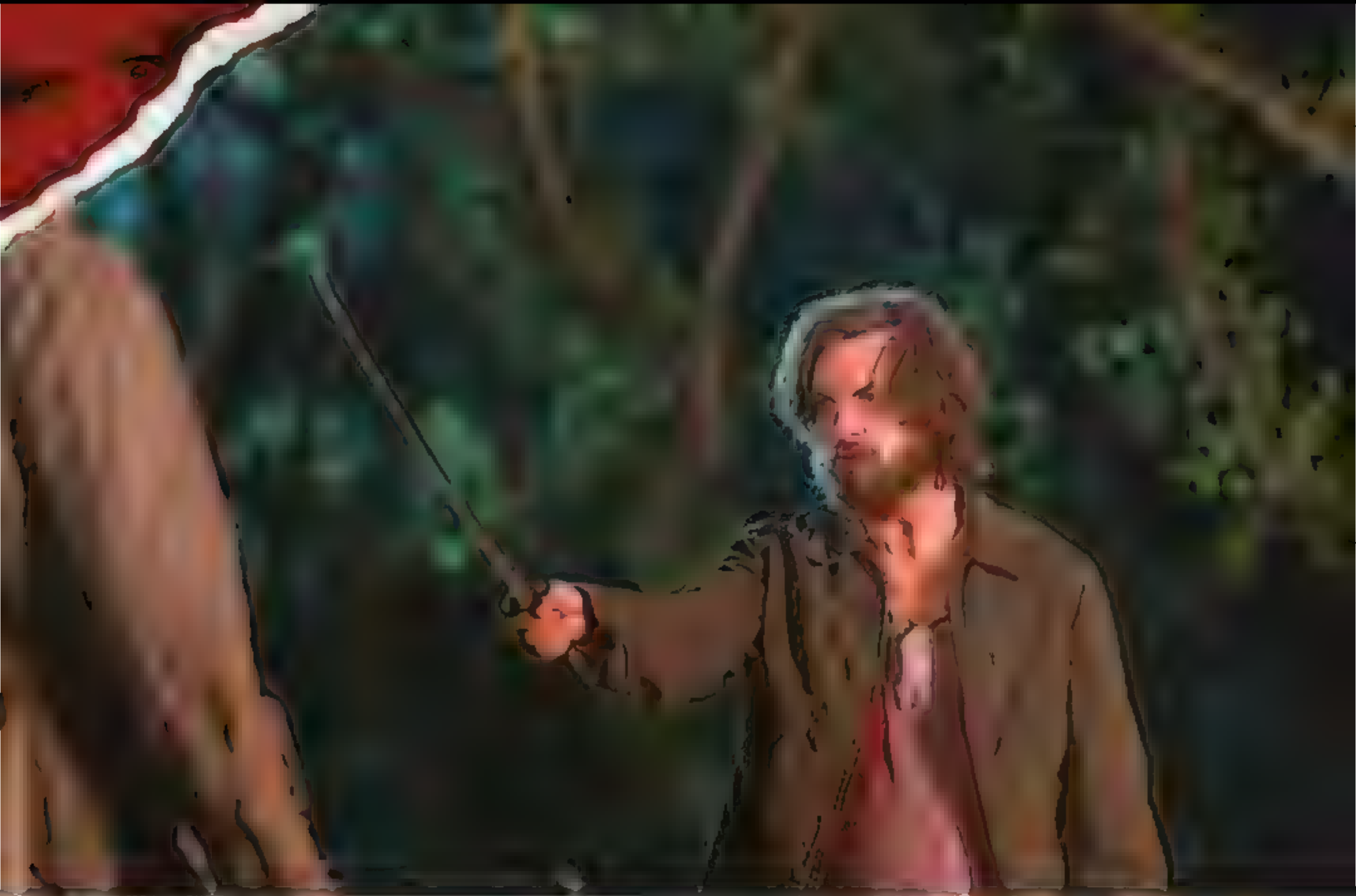
ABOVE RIGHT
Shock rocker Marilyn Manson found his stage name by combining screen idol Marilyn Monroe with criminal Charles Manson

specifically at the heavier end of the sonic spectrum – that has most consistently turned to Manson for grit by association. Rock titans Guns N' Roses would tack a cover of Manson's *Look at Your Game, Girl* at the end of their 1993 covers album *The Spaghetti Incident*. In fairness, the band, when called out on the moral wisdom of doing this, would donate royalties to Manson victim Wojciech Frykowski's son. A few years earlier, in 1984, Sonic Youth and Lydia Lunch had written the song *Death Valley '69*, about the proposed secret city Manson believed he and his followers would hide out in once the race war he planned to implement had begun.

Three songs on Cabaret Voltaire's 1985 album *The Covenant* sample Manson's crazed speeches. Ozzy Osbourne sang "Watch what you do! Charlie and the family might get you, yeah" on his sensitively titled 1988 number *Bloodbath in Paradise*. While popular indie band Kasabian take their name from family member Linda Kasabian, former guitarist Chris Karlof said he chose the word just because it sounded "cool." Kasabian was the prosecution's

chief witness during the Manson trial, subsequently being awarded immunity for being so. It's certainly a better name than the Loseser group's previous moniker – *Saratoga* – despite the band having to answer a lot of Manson-related questions early in their career.

The Armenian-American nu-metal band System of a Down had a unique take on the legacy of Manson, which they shared with the world on the song *ATWA*. From their breakthrough album, *Toxify*. As well as being one of modern rock's most innovative bands, System of a Down are known for regularly ingesting industrial quantities of extremely strong marijuana. Beat that mind as you read on. "The Charles Manson everyone sees on television – guitarist Daron Malakian mused of said song, an ode to Manson's perceived standing as an environmentalist, during the band's promotional tour for the 2001 album "I don't agree with killing anybody" Malakian clarified. "I don't agree with gouging and sawing anybody's throats or anything, writing shit on walls. That's not what I'm into. It's not the side of Charles



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Manson that I'm into. It's more of his ideas and his thoughts on society..."

Fair enough. But in truth, no one has cashed in on the fear and confusion Charles Manson and his crimes suited pop culture with more so than another man who made his own path to mainstream infamy. And, much like The Beatles and Manson, that man's own musical output would come to be associated with blood splashing and major tragedy, with his caustic influence being called into question during the blame game that followed the 1999 Columbine Massacre. That man's name is Brian Warner, though chances are you know him by the stage name he adopted in the late 1980s: namely Marilyn Manson.

"The name Marilyn Manson came from watching lots of talk shows and reading magazines like *Hollywood Babylon*," explained Warner during a mid-1990s interview on MTV's late, great heavy metal show *Headbanger's Ball*. "I realized that Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson, to me, were the most memorable people from the 60s for their own separate reasons. Putting those two together was a pretty powerful balance that was kind of irreconcilable. Male and female, positive and negative, good and evil."

ABOVE
Charles Manson is portrayed by Gethin Anthony in NBC series *American Horror Story*.

RIGHT
The Ramones' seminal album *Leave Home*—released in 1977—opens with "Glad to See You Go," which references Manson.

BELOW RIGHT
The young Henry Rollins, then fronting seminal L.A. punk band Black Flag, was a pen pal of Manson.

Warner's musical frenemy, the Oscar-winning composer and Nine Inch Nails frontman Trent Reznor took his interest in Manson even further. In 1992, Reznor began renting 10050 Cielo Drive—the location of the Tate murders in 1969. He moved his recording equipment in there and named his studio Le Pig in reference to Susan Atkins daubing the word "Pig" in blood on the front door of the house. Most of NIN's seminal 1994 album *The Downward Spiral* was recorded there. They even made a video, for the song *Gave Up*, on location. Perhaps inevitably, Reznor's residency there didn't end well.

"One day I met Sharon Tate's sister," Reznor told *Rolling Stone* in 1997. "She said, 'Are you exploiting my sister's death by living in her house?' For the first time the whole thing kind of slapped me in the face. I said, 'No, it's just sort of my own interest in American folklore. I'm in this place where a weird part of history occurred.' I guess it never really struck me before, but it did then. She lost her sister from a senseless, ignorant situation that I don't want to support."

Reznor moved out in December 1993, relocating his studio to New Orleans, though not before taking the front door of



OMG! THEY KILLED CHARLIE!

MANSON HAS APPEARED IN ANIMATED FORM, TOO

Charles Manson has turned up in some unlikely places. None have been as unlikely as in the cartoon *South Park*. The 16th episode of *South Park*'s second season, entitled 'Merry Christmas, Charlie Manson!', not only riffs on the 1979 feature-length adaptation of Charles M. Schulz's *Peanuts* strip, 'Happy Birthday, Charlie Brown', but sees Charlie break out of prison with his cellmate (and *Cosmo*'s uncle) Howard.

South Park isn't the only cartoon in which Manson has manifested. There's an episode of *Family Guy* called 'Brian Does Hollywood' in which Peter informs us that he hasn't been to California since he "lived with his other family." We're sure you can see where that gag ends up. *Family Guy*, it should be said, has been kind to Manson, with Brian appearing in a total of six episodes. Appearances include a stoned Peter and Chris musing over whether to go on a killing spree in the Hollywood Hills ('Foreign Affairs') and Stewie referencing his twisted childhood while preparing to torture *The Simpsons*' Nelson Muntz ('The Simpsons Guy').

There is, unsurprisingly, a couple of references to Manson in episodes of *The Simpsons* too, specifically in the episodes 'The Way It Was' and 'The Way It Is'. In 'The Way It Was', a copy of a book entitled *Charles Manson: In His Own Words* is in the school library, and in the episode 'Gone With the Wind',

And yet perhaps Manson's most significant appearance within the world of animation is perhaps the 2006 stop-motion cartoon *Live Freaky! Die Freaky!*. The film is directed by John Roeder, who, alongside Exene Cervenka—singer in legendary LA punk band X—used to make a living selling paintings by the serial killer John Wayne Gacy. It stars latter-day punk icons like Green Day and Rancid. And—whisper it—it's actually pretty fun.



ABOVE

Rock stars, Manson, took their names from Manson. Family member and prosecution witness under Massey.

BELOW

The HBO series *Mad Men* captured a great number of allusions to Manson.

10050 Cielo Drive as a memento of his time there. The house was demolished in 1994 and is now permanently locked to the public.

Then there's the Ramones, who ignited their second record, 1977's *Leave Home* with the opening song *Glad to See You Go*. The New York punks are often depicted as brainless goofs, which befits their cartoonish image. But you don't write pop punk as clever as they did if you're lacking in grey matter. *Glad to See You Go* is a case in point with the song satirising the stalker obsession of serial killers thanks to our morbid fascination with them. "Gonna smile, I'm gonna laugh," sings Joey Ramone. "They're gonna want my autograph, and in a moment of passion, get the glory like Charles Manson."

With causing offence a central tenet of punk rock, followers of the punk scene have long found the influence of Manson irresistible. Sure, Charlie and his cult did terrible things, but in killing off the 1960s dream of love and harmony, and in becoming one of the most reviled men in the Western world, he also became a symbol of rebellion toward the old world.

LA's Black Flag would call their epic trans-America tours 'creepy crawls' in tribute to the Manson Family's practice of breaking into random homes at night while their victims slept and rearranging their furniture. Singer Henry Rollins even corresponded with Manson in prison. He said it made him feel "heavy" and "intense."

While Manson's physical form may no longer reside on Earth, his influence can be seen on screen with alarming regularity. Most literally in the NBC series *Aquarius*, which casts actor David Duchovny as a Los Angeles Police Department investigator

who infiltrates the Family. Gethin Anthony's *Game of Thrones* Kenly Baratheon plays Manson. Elsewhere, episode ten of the cult-themed seventh series of the episodic horror show *American Horror Story* is named 'Charles (Manson) in Charge', where countless words have been written online about the influence of the Manson murders—specifically the similarity of the character Megan Draper to Sharon Tate—on the hit HBO series *Mad Men*.

With 2019 being the 50th anniversary of the brutal murders of Sharon Tate and friends, a number of Manson-themed movies have also hit the big screen. Reaction from the victims' families has been mixed, with Sharon Tate's sister Debra Tate calling *The Haunting of Sharon Tate* "tasteless" and adding: "It's classless how everyone is rushing to release something for the 50th anniversary of this horrific event." However, she offered her support to Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, saying Tarantino shared her commitment to making sure her sister's "memory is not exploited."

Elsewhere, *The Girls*, the 2016 debut novel by Emma Cline, tells the story of a group of broken young girls who live on a ranch and are devoted to a man named Russell, while *Charles Manson: The Musical* explores the life of the cult leader.

Footballer Pele once said that everywhere you go there are three icons that everyone knows: Jesus Christ, Pele and Coca-Cola. We'd argue that a very bad man from Ohio could be added to that list. Charles Manson never found the rock stardom he desired, but rightly or wrongly, his status as an icon of infamy of evil is unquestionable.



THE DEATH OF A MADMAN

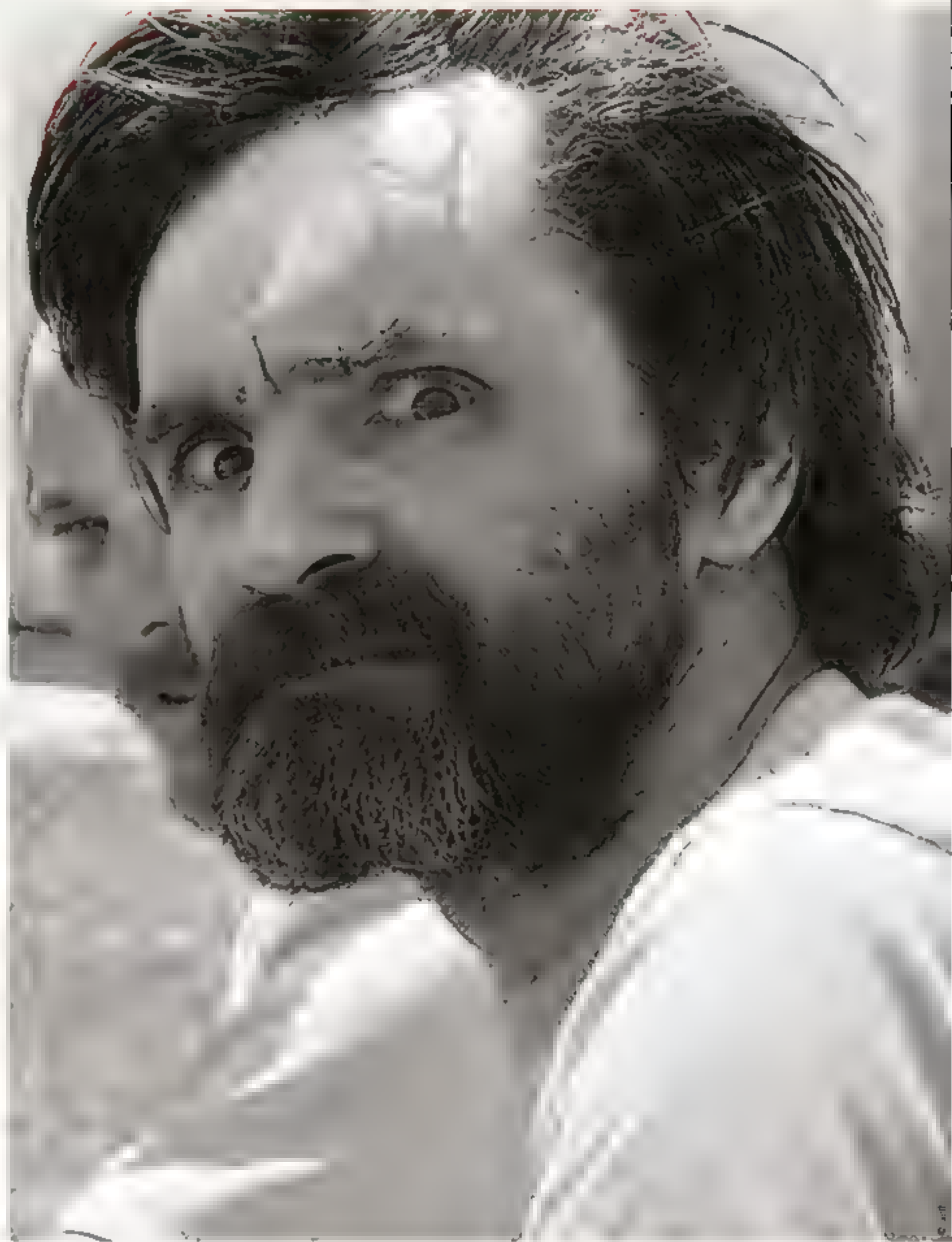
MANSON'S LAST YEARS SAW AN INCREASE IN HIS NOTORIETY. NOT EVEN DEATH HAS DIMINISHED HIS PLACE IN HISTORY'S PANTHEON OF EVIL

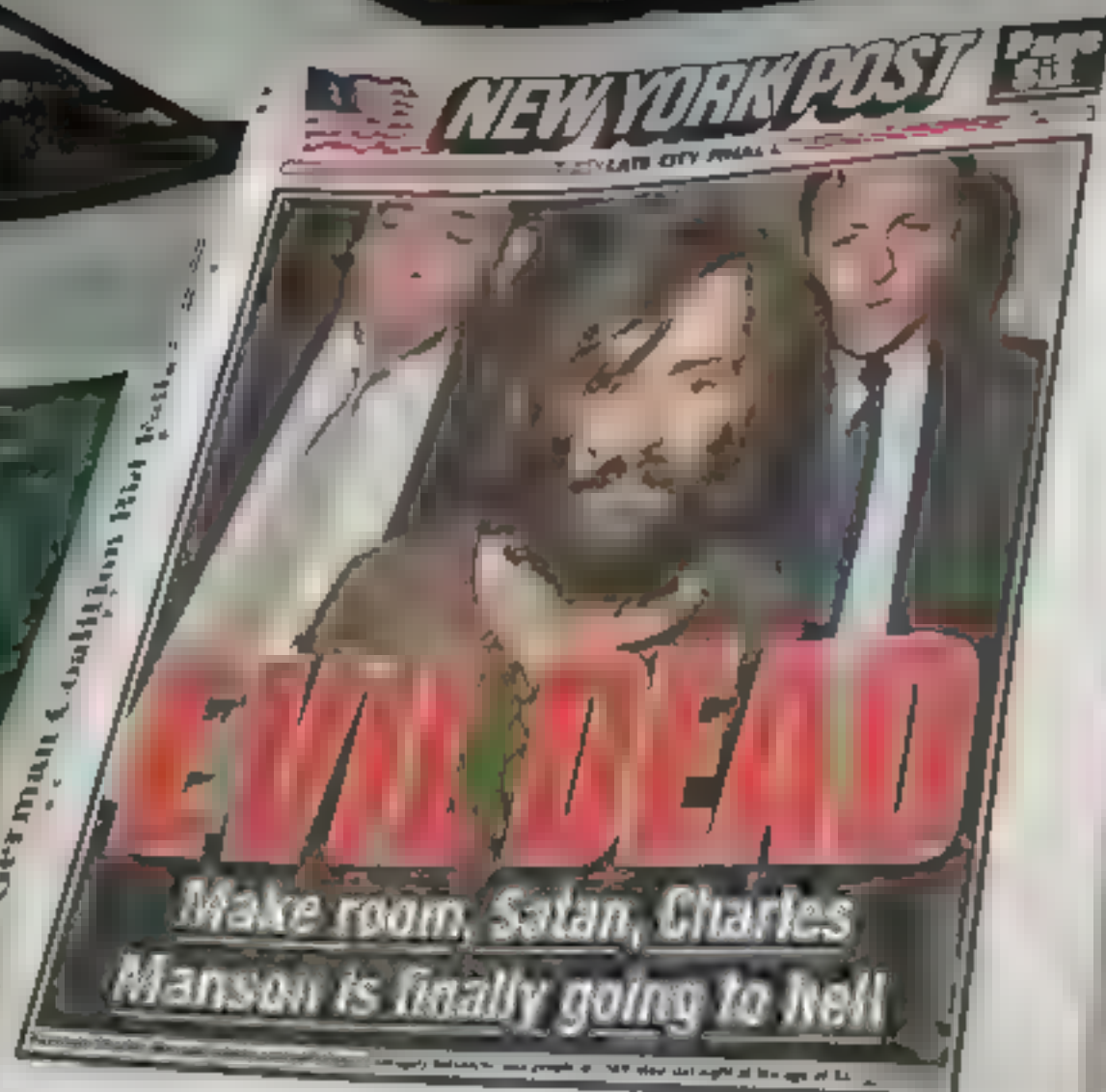
WORDS GREG KING

Charles Manson sat in prison for 48 years. In the 1980s, before access to specific prisoners was forbidden in the state of California, he relished media attention, participating in a number of interviews and documentaries that allowed him to play to the cameras, making wild claims, gesticulating like a madman, grimacing and issuing furious warnings of a coming slaughter. It was all theatre, meant to preserve Manson's image. The media had turned him into the ultimate personification of evil, endowed with terrifying powers of influence, and so he played along. The act probably gave him a sense of satisfaction, knowing that it contributed to the aura of evil that had surrounded him since 1969. Only occasionally did he let slip that it was all an act. Asked in 1994 if he was crazy, Manson shot back: "Whatever that means. Sure, he's crazy, he's mad as a hatter. What difference does it make? You know, a long time ago being crazy meant something, nowadays, everybody's crazy."

There was never a chance that Manson would be paroled. He finally stopped attending his parole hearings, considering them a farce and insisting that he had committed no crimes. In 2014, Manson announced that he was engaged to a 26-year-old named Afton Burton, a dead-ringer for Susan Atkins, upon whom he bestowed the name 'Star'. No marriage took place; according to reports, Burton hoped to marry Manson so that she could claim his corpse when he died, have it preserved, and put it on display as a way to make money. Apparently Manson got wind of this idea and decided that he didn't like being on the other end of being used.

In January 2017, Manson was rushed from the California State Prison at Corcoran to a Bakersfield hospital, suffering from





intestinal bleeding. News reports said that he was too weak for surgery and Manson was finally returned to the prison a few days later. Over the next ten months, his condition rapidly declined; he was suffering from incurable colon cancer. Finally, at 8:13 on the night of Sunday, 19 November 2017, Manson died from respiratory failure and cardiac arrest at the age of 83.

With his death the Manson frenzy began again: new television specials, newspaper articles, and frenzied retrospectives on one of the 20th century's most malevolent characters. For those whose family members had been murdered, it was akin to a bandage being ripped off an old wound. Asked if Manson's death brought a sense of closure, Jay Sebring's nephew Anthony DiMana said: "I can understand that question, but it doesn't really have the awareness of what we dealt with and the realities of these crimes. Our family has definitely not derived any kind of comfort or closure from his passing, nor would we from any of the other killers, or any ill fate for the other inmates, but knowing

“THE MEDIA HAD TURNED HIM INTO THE ULTIMATE PERSONIFICATION OF EVIL, ENDOWED WITH TERRIFYING POWERS OF INFLUENCE”

LEFT

Charles Manson at the California Medical Facility in 1960

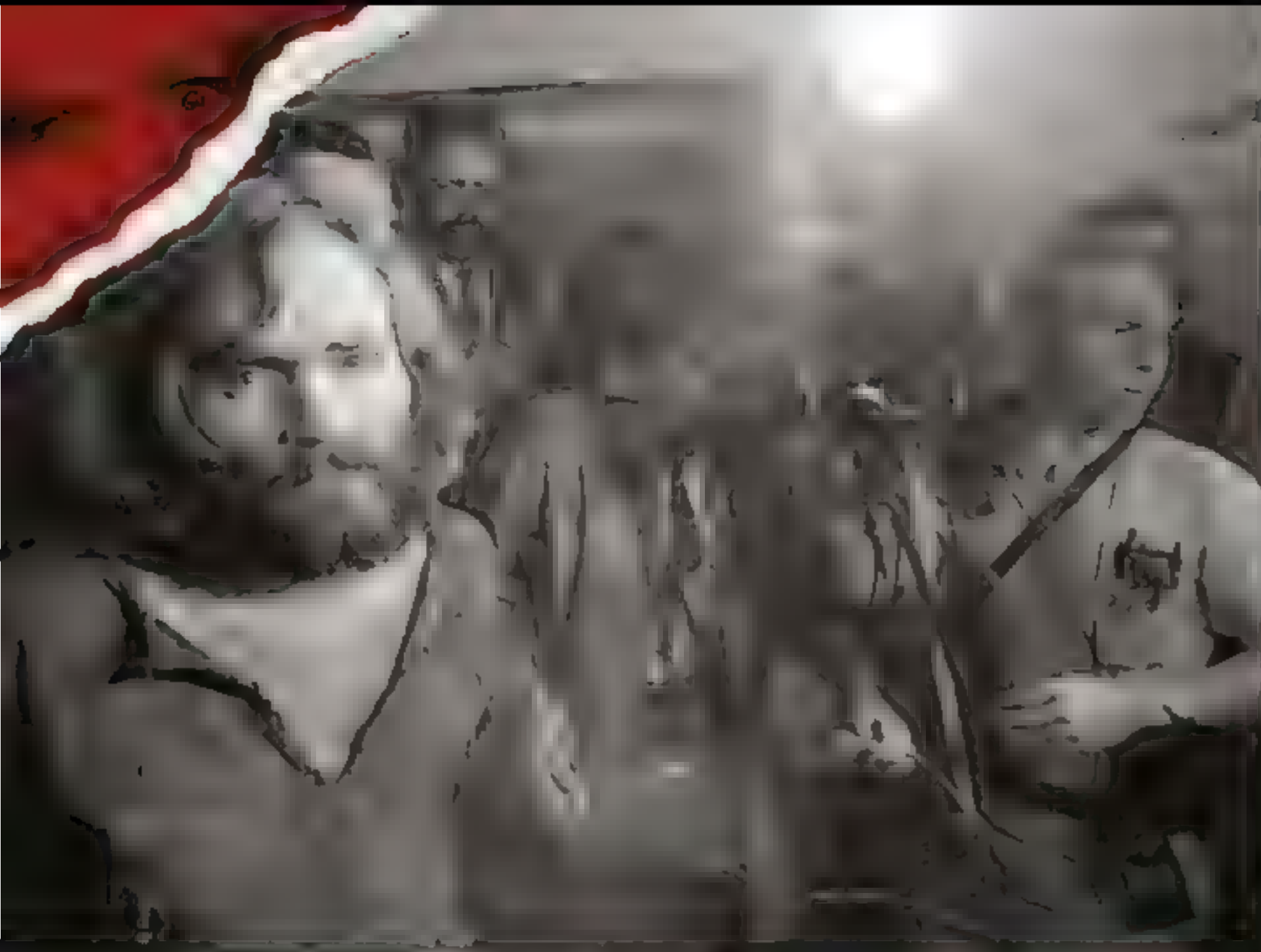
ABOVE

Charles Manson was front page news once again following his death at the age of 83 in November 2017

that they will serve the rest of their lives behind bars, that's the very least that they can do." And Sharon Tate's sister Debra explained: "People are saying that this should be some kind of relief, but oddly enough, it really isn't. While Charlie may be gone, it's the ones that are still alive that perpetrated everything, and it was up to their imaginations for what brutal things were going to be done. In an odd way, I see them as much more dangerous individuals. Although I've forgiven, I have not forgotten, and I feel it's very important that they stay exactly where they are until they die."

In the wake of Manson's death several people came forward, attempting to claim the late killer's body and his estate, which included lucrative rights to his image and any royalties from the songs he had written.

In a way - and fully in keeping with the carnival atmosphere that had always ringed the Manson case - it was fitting that the issue itself turned into a courtroom drama. Michael Brunner, the son Manson fathered with Mary Brunner, hoped to cremate the corpse "as quickly as possible to end the circus." He wanted "nothing gross to go on with the body." Jason Freeman, believed to be Manson's grandson from his first marriage, also staked a claim, insisting that he only wanted to "put this so-called monster, this historical figure that shouldn't have been blown up as big as it was for all these years," to rest. Michael Charney, one of the killer's penpals, produced a will from 2002 in which he was to be left the estate and the body. Another man, Ben Garecki, soon cropped up with yet another will, this



PUTTING MANSON TO REST

MANSON'S FUNERAL GAVE HIM THE PEACEFUL END HIS CRIMES DENIED TO HIS VICTIMS

After winning custody of Manson's corpse, Jason Freeman arranged a quick funeral. The memorial service was held on 18 March 2019 at a funeral home in Porterville, California, and was conducted by Mark Pitcher, pastor of the town's Church of the Nazarene. Although he was initially reluctant to preside over the rite, Pitcher finally agreed when Freeman assured him that he was a Christian and only wanted his grandfather to have a proper burial. But this, too, inevitably turned into a circus: someone sold a photograph of Manson's now unfrozen corpse in the open casket and it soon appeared splashed across the media. Several dozen mourners attended, their identities kept secret but described in the press as Manson's friends. The programme for the service included Bible verses for the man who had declared himself to be both the reincarnation of Jesus Christ and Satan. In his eulogy, Pitcher alluded to Manson's notorious crimes: "There were many choices thrust upon him that brought about very challenging circumstances through his early years," he said. "But he also made choices that brought great consequence and negatively impacted other people for many, many years." At the end of the service, the body was cremated, and the ashes were scattered in a nearby forest.



one from 2017, which granted control to another of Manson's putative sons. While these legal battles played out, Manson's corpse remained refrigerated.

In the end, the Kern County Superior Court in California awarded Freeman custody of Manson's body, based on the fact that unlike Bannister he had maintained a relationship with the cult leader. In March 2018, Manson's corpse was cremated, some four months after his death. But the circus continues: pieces of Manson's burial shroud and even his reputed ashes have been appearing for sale on various internet sites.

Even in death, Manson remains a powerful totem of evil, the object of fascination and even admiration among many who are too young to remember the fear he generated across the world. And the exploitation, horror and fascination seems



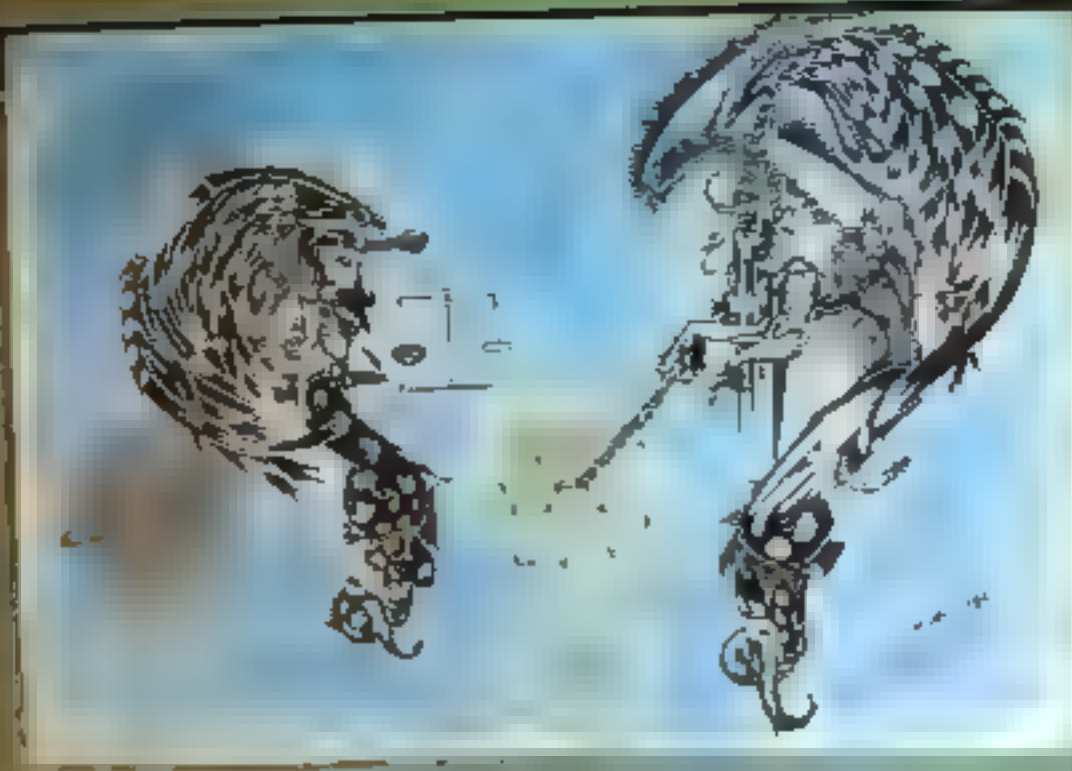
TOP
Charles Manson arrives at the Los Angeles City Jail following his arrest in 1969

ABOVE LEFT
Sharon Tate killing the filming of *Valmy of the Dots* 1966

ABOVE RIGHT
California State Prison in California where Manson spent his last years of incarceration

unlikely to dim. A half-century has now passed since that hot summer of 1969, but the Manson legacy remains as potent as ever. At least four new films are set to be released in the coming months centred around the murders and the unlikely band of happy killers. Nothing, it seems, can shake public interest in what Manson prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi called the "seemingly timeless resonance of the case".

To some, Manson has become a kind of folk hero, the centre of an almost macabre celebration of violence and mayhem. His Family may be gone, but some view Manson as a counter-cultural icon, a maligned representative of all that was good about the decade of peace and love, a visionary environmentalist, a scapegoat who suffered at the hands of a rabid media. Most, though, recall the terror he



caused – and the shock his band of misfits sent through an increasingly troubled America. The star athlete, the choir girl, the would-be nun – the idea that children from a comfortable, middle-class existence could so easily turn into blood-thirsty killers under the influence of a monstrous guru shattered complacent beliefs about an entire generation. To this day the question remains: how did Manson manage to manipulate a group of outcasts into becoming killers? Knowledge that members of his Family had already crossed lines of crime, drug abuse, and sexual freedom before coming to Manson only eroded comfortable expectations.

Manson was the first true celebrity murderer, famous in his own right for the deeds he directed and through his bizarre antics overshadowing the victims. Only Sharon Tate retains a rival profile – and that only, and unfortunately, because of her death. Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Parent, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca, Gary Hinman and Donald ‘Shorty’ Shea have receded from the public consciousness, most often

“MOST RECALL THE TERROR HE CAUSED, AND THE SHOCK HIS BAND OF MISFITS SENT THROUGH AN INCREASINGLY TROUBLED AMERICA”

remembered for their deaths and not as victims still missed and mourned by surviving relatives.

The Manson murders came at the end of a decade punctuated by social upheaval and violence: the Vietnam War; the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X; anti-war demonstrations; the Watts riots in Los Angeles. America was already on edge when the events of 9–10 August 1969 erupted. The crimes touched a raw nerve in a nation already disillusioned and turned increasingly ugly and scarred the hell out of an entire generation.

“Many people I know in Los Angeles,” said writer Joan Didion, “believe that the 1960s ended abruptly on 9 August 1969, ended at the exact moment when word of the murders on Cielo Drive traveled like

ABOVE

Artwork believed to have been created by Manson during his time in prison on display at a gallery show on Governors Island in 2015

brush fire through the community.” There had, she wrote, been an unease in the air, a building “demented and vortical tension,” as cultures clashed and the beautiful people of Hollywood seemed to hover between two worlds. It was why so many willingly believed absurd rumours: Sharon Tate’s alleged sex parties and witchcraft, and the Manson Family’s supposed penchant for filming their rumoured human sacrifices. Paranoia was in the air – a paranoia the murders seemed to justify.

Fifty years on, the Manson murders still fascinate. The mixture of Hollywood celebrity, hippie cult, The Beach Boys, The Beatles, the Bible, drugs and brutal crimes collided in a combination likely never to be repeated. If nothing else, the murders left people afraid – an ironic legacy for the man who so often preached the beauty of fear.

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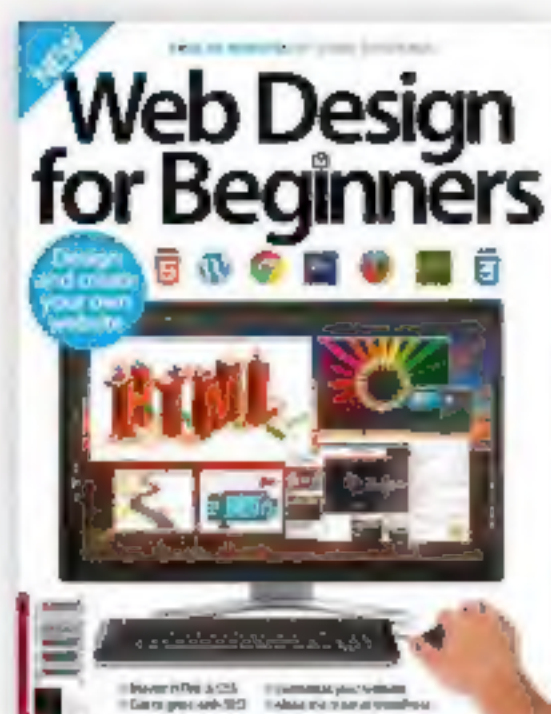


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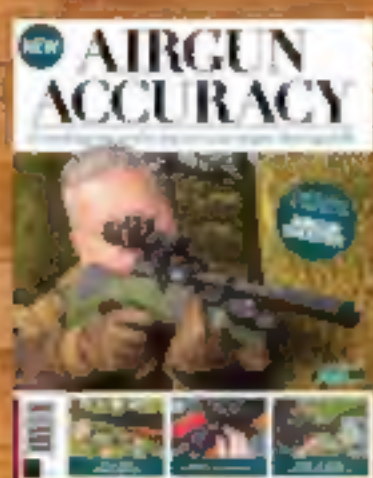
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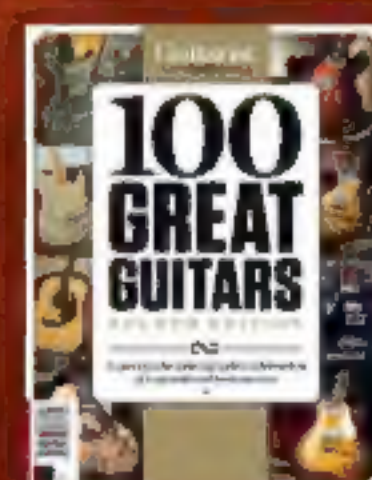
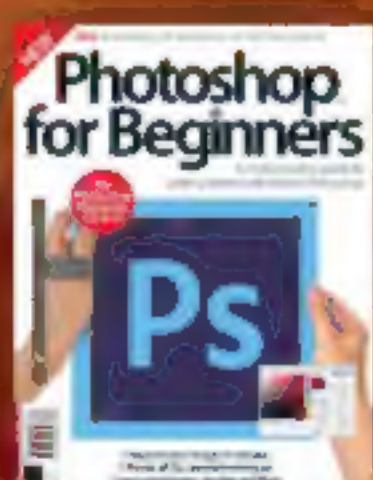


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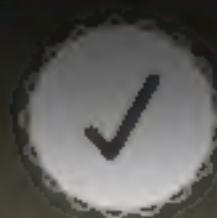


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